Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN

Rev. Frederick Brown Harris

D.D., LL.D., LITT.D.

AT THE OPENING OF THE DAILY SESSIONS

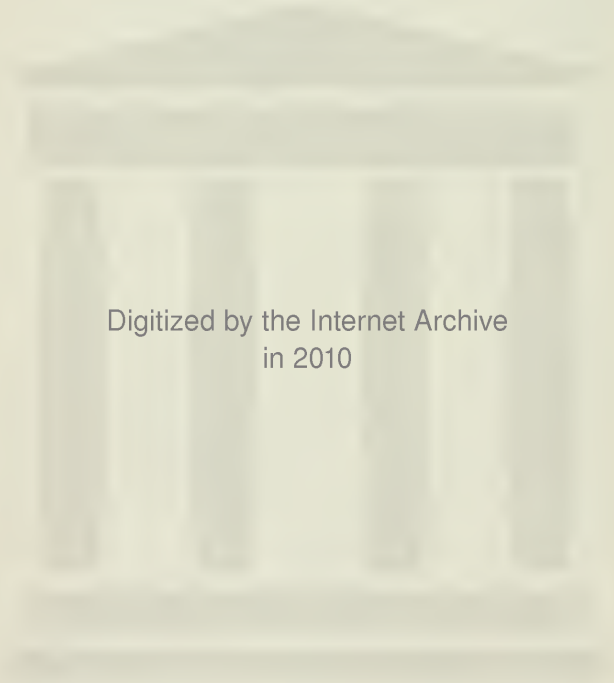
OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DURING THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH AND

EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESSES

1961-1964





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To a dedicated American

Mr. John A Weiss

who with the Senate Chaplain
Cherishes the friendship
of a distinguished Cartoonist
whose brush is a sword
to puncture pretentious
revealing many a refuge
of lies (John Baer)

With every good Wish
always and all ways,
Frederick Brown Harris

Washington, D.C.
1965



THE CHAPLAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

88TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION • SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 104

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SEPTEMBER 25, 1964.—Ordered to be printed with an illustration

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON

Senate Resolution No. 365

EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
September 25, 1964.

Resolved, That there be printed with an illustration as a Senate document the prayers offered by the Reverend Frederick Brown Harris, doctor of divinity, Chaplain of the Senate, at the opening of the daily sessions of the Senate during the Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Congresses, together with any other prayers offered by him during that period in his official capacity as Chaplain of the Senate; and that there be printed three thousand three hundred additional copies of such document for the use of the Senate, to be distributed by the Chaplain of the Senate.

Attest:

FELTON M. JOHNSTON, *Secretary.*

"Arrows of Desire"

VOLUME FOUR

Prayers

"Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!"

In Appreciation

of the

Official Reporters of the Senate

Who, in the production of the miracle of daily legislative publication, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, are both reporters and editors, and whose deep interest and devotional attitude in accurately reporting the Chaplain's prayers make them valued partners in this spiritual ministry to the Nation.

Dedicated

to the

SENATE BREAKFAST PRAYER GROUP

A fellowship of United States Senators who, regardless of party affiliation, and no matter what may be the legislative pressures, meet in the Vandenberg Room at 8:30 a.m. each Wednesday morning during Congressional Sessions. Their purpose is to discuss fundamental spiritual verities, and to lift their hearts in prayer to the Father God who hath made and preserved us a Nation.

Here, once a week, for over a decade, under the White Dome of the Capitol, the Shrine of each patriot's devotion, the heavily freighted phrase, "This Nation Under God" becomes flesh in the communion of kindred hearts and in the witness to their faith of these praying servants of the Republic.

"If my people which are called by my name shall seek my face and Pray, *and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear and forgive their sins and heal their land."*

Foreword

by

President Lyndon B. Johnson

The United States Senate is a body in which tradition is highly respected and plays a significant role in legislative deliberations and in shaping policy. One of the most important of those traditions is the daily prayer with which Dr. Harris opens the session.

This moment of quiet contemplation is an important event in the lives of Senators who have so little time to devote to calm reflection. It is a pause in the day's occupation from which men who have heavy responsibilities draw strength and fortitude for the tense hours that lie ahead.

Dr. Harris fulfills a role that is unique in our national life. He is the spiritual guide of one hundred men representing the great faiths of the Western World who find that through him they share a common bond. It is a sustaining thought to realize that the daily prayer is as much a part of the legislative process as is the drafting of bills and the votes that are taken on them.

This is a factor which gives all of us greater strength and greater confidence in the future of our Nation.

Dr. Harris is a man who has enriched my life as he has enriched the lives of all who have listened to him. He reminds us constantly of our solemn obligations and of the importance of what we seek to do. He demonstrates that those who claim that Americans are more concerned with television, air-conditioned cars and gadgets than with the spiritual things of life are mistaken. He makes us conscious of the eternal presence of God.

I am glad that this collection of prayers will give other Americans an opportunity to share in the dedication of Dr. Harris to his God and his country. It is a dedication worth sharing.

Foreword

by

Senator Mike Mansfield, Majority Leader

Every day we are reminded in the Senate by Dr. Frederick Brown Harris of the role of prayer in the responsibility which Senators bear to their conscience and to the citizens who placed their faith in us by sending us here. Through it, we seek to channel such wisdom and strength as we may possess in order to discharge faithfully our duties for the good of the people of all the States of the Union. It is through prayer that that strength of spirit is sought which helps us, in spite of normal human limitations, to deal with the great complexity of problems which are confronted in the Senate.

The daily prayer in the Senate, then, makes an elusive but profound contribution to the work of the Government of the United States. And this volume of prayers which were offered by Dr. Harris in the Senate during the 87th and 88th Congresses does much to reveal the depth and significance of that contribution.

Foreword

by

Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen, Minority Leader

It was written centuries ago that the fervent prayers of a righteous man availeth much. What a timely answer that one sentence is to the frustrations which arise each day.

That the Senate should launch into high controversy almost every day immediately after the Chaplain's prayer is of no special significance. That is but a part of our political pattern.

The prayer with which the day opens is so important because it lingers. Sometimes a single word out of the prayer tumbles about in the soul and energizes hope and faith. Sometimes a single phrase besieges the spirit during the day and brings comfort.

One word can be truly nuclear in its effect. One phrase can dissipate concern and doubt and bring so much comfort.

Dr. Harris is truly a righteous man. His daily prayers are lofty, noble, fervent, and intensely personal in their entreaty for the light by which to conduct public affairs. May this comforting daily approach ever continue as the words of a pious man dissipate concern and give each member renewed faith in discharging his responsibilities.

I know this volume will bring an equal hope and assurance to many people everywhere.

Prayers *Offered by the Chaplain at the Opening of the Daily Sessions of the Senate of the United States During the Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Congresses, Inclusive* [1961-1964]

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1961

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, Thou only art our strength and our hope, our shelter from the stormy blast of these tumultuous days, and our eternal home.

In this first moment of a new convocation in this forum of a people's will, with contrite hearts seeking Thy guidance we would write at the top of the record begun this day "In the beginning, God."

As we come to this hour, we are conscious of a cloud of witnesses out of heroic yesterdays who look down upon us from the sacred spaces beneath the white dome of this national temple of governance, as, on this day of beginnings, the ancient vow is uttered, "So help me God." To that solemn affirmation may there echo in the heart of every legislator the sound of a great "Amen."

May those who, in this day of destiny, sit in the exalted seats of this historic Chamber think, without confusion, clearly and speak always with due caution and humility, with a sense of their high calling, knowing that their words are not their own, but that they wing their way to hopeful and also to hostile ears that listen in all the earth.

So, in a volcanic day, with the earth aflame, when the precious things we hold nearest our hearts are threatened by sinister forces without pity or conscience, grant Thy benediction as these dedicated servants of the Republic turn now to the momentous matters awaiting them, with the solemn realization that:

We are watchers of a beacon
Whose light must never die.
We are guardians of an altar
That shows Thee nigh.

We are children of Thy freemen
Who sleep beneath the sod.
For the might of Thy arm we bless Thee,
Our God, our father's God.

In the dear Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1961

OUR FATHERS' GOD, bowing at this wayside shrine which our fathers reared, we bring to Thee the stress and strain of these testing times, praying that our jaded souls may find in Thy presence the peace of green pastures and the still waters of the spirit.

We acknowledge that the wise provision of those who knelt about the cradle of our liberty, regarding the separation of church and state, did not decree the separation of religion and the state, knowing that spiritual verities are the very breath of the Republic.

In all the tangles of living together in the maze of human relationships through which, in legislative halls, those here chosen by the people grope their way, teach us anew by this moment of devotion that at its heart every great issue of life is spiritual.

Grant to Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs the will to match vast needs with mighty deeds. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1961

O God our Father, who art love and light and truth, we turn unfilled to Thee. In a world where the very foundations seem to be shaken, we cherish this hushed and hallowed moment which so long ago the Founding Fathers set apart as an altar of prayer at the day's beginning.

Here, with contrite hearts, we would be sure of Thee and of spiritual resources before facing the high solemnities of waiting tasks. Grant that those who in this fateful day by the people's choice have been called to high places of state, facing responsibilities as heavy as the servants of the commonwealth have ever borne, may be filled with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge, and the fear of Thee.

In an hour when such vast issues are at stake for all the world, may those here serve, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand, rise to greatness of vision and soul, as the anxious eyes of all the nations are fixed upon this Chamber.

Together, with full purpose of heart, in Thy might unafraid, send us forth to meet the issues of this crucial year as in the name of the Lord, our God, we set up our banners. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1961

God of all mercies, in a violent day swept by angry forces with which unaided we cannot cope, Thou only art our strength and refuge, amid mortal ills prevailing.

As citizens of a world that carries on its sagging shoulders problems of human relationships and burdens of suffering, greater than humanity has ever before borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of reconciliation.

In this day of crashing systems, save us from being prophets of gloom and of doom. As we peer at the fiery destruction of the old, may there be vouchsafed to us vistas of a richer, fairer earth to be.

Rising above all that is ignoble, teach us to work together in glad harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all peoples of this awakening earth who unite in mutual good will, determined to open the gates of life more abundant for all mankind.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1961

Our Father, God, amid the seething strife that mars the earth which could be so fair, we turn from ourselves and all the vexatious problems which press upon us to the supreme spiritual verities which cannot be shaken, which abide forever, and on which in the end our very salvation depends.

As members of Thy family on this shrinking globe, may we be gripped and guided by the realization that we are indeed our brother's keeper.

Deliver us from complacent satisfaction, as in an impoverished world we gaze upon its misery from the ivory towers of our own privilege.

By the saving grace of true penitence, may we speedily cleanse our land of betrayals which cut across and deny our high profession.

Open our ears to the imperative voice which sounds across the ages, saying, "I was hungry, You fed me; I was impris-

oned, You came unto me," as an ancient parable becomes today's soundest politics and policies.

In the Master's name we lift our prayer. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, trusting only in Thy mercy, bringing nothing in our hands—our selfish hands which we confess too often yield to the temptation to grasp at fleeting baubles—we wait in contrition for Thy benediction, at this shrine of Thy forgiving grace.

We would face whatever the day may bring in the confidence of Thy guidance, in the gladness of Thy service, and in the solemn realization that there are no frontiers in the realm of neighborliness.

May the great causes that will mold the future of human destiny on this planet into the pattern of Thy desire and design, that will heal the hurts of this sorely wounded world, that will create good will and usher in a just and abiding peace, challenge the best that is in us and gain the supreme allegiance of our love and labor as we serve our brief day in these fields of time.

We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, out of our partial and fragmentary conceptions, knowing that we see as but through a glass darkly, we turn to Thee who dwellest in the effulgence of perfect light. We come with the consciousness that to abide in Thee is to find our own completeness.

We, Thy children, on this wandering island in the sky—a speck amid the vastness of space—would look up to Thee in faith and in hope, as from our tasks we turn aside for this dedicated moment.

In a time when Thy earth children are peering so constantly into the universe without, we come asking that Thou make real to us the universe within, where Thou hast taught us that the kingdom of Heaven is to be found.

Give us to see that there lies our fortune and destiny, where truth may walk in shining garments, and goodness grow glorious, and all that is excellent and beautiful, unselfish and of high repute, may make our inner lives even as the garden of the Lord.

We ask it all in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1961

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou hast made us in Thine image and likeness, and hast implanted within us deep desires which the material world can never satisfy.

We are conscious, as we come, that Thou needest no sacrifice our hands can bring, or any offering of praise our lips can frame; but because we live in Thy world and share Thy bounty, because we breathe Thine air and Thy power sustains us, because Thy goodness and mercy follow us all our days, and Thy love blesses us continually, we magnify Thy glorious name.

Lead us in the stress and strain of this new day upon which we have entered, and of the new week soon to dawn, when in the national life there comes the changing of the guard. Hear the fervent prayer of our heart: "America, America, God shed His grace on thee." Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1961

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, as we bow in this quiet moment, dedicated to the unseen and eternal, confirm, we beseech Thee, our abiding faith in the deep and holy foundations which the fathers laid, lest in foolish futility we attempt to build on sand, instead of rock.

Make us alive and alert, we beseech Thee, to the spiritual values which underlie all the bitter struggle of these epic days.

In all our frantic seeking for satisfactions and solutions, if we find all except Thee, we have nothing but vanity and our spirits remain still famished and athirst. To these, Thy servants, who in the ministry of public service have been called by their counsel to help lead the peoples of the earth in these perplexing days, give a right judgment in all things.

Grant them the sustaining grace both to will and to do the things which are good and acceptable in Thy sight.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1961

ETERNAL GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MEN, who bringeth forth righteousness as the light, and judgment as the noondays, our souls wait upon Thee; our expectation is from Thee.

In the present crisis confronting our Nation give us the determination and the courage to choose the hard, rather than the soft and easy, way and the resolution to deny ourselves of any bauble in the realm of mere things robbing us of spiritual riches, which, lacking, we are moral paupers.

This day may the new President, chosen by the people, be indeed by his own dedication ordained of Thee, as, standing, by the open Bible, in the presence of the whole world, he

assumes the awesome challenge of leading this Nation in history's gravest hour.

Purge us from conceptions too narrow as freemen. As citizens of this free land, make us big enough and good enough to be worthy of our heritage, as in Thy presence on this Inaugural Day we individually register our vow to guard the freedom purchased for us at great cost and to defend the Republic from all enemies at home and abroad, "I solemnly swear."

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1961

Our Father, God, through all the travail of a free people determining its leaders in a time fraught with danger and world turbulence, our hope, O God, is in Thee, as this dear land of our hope and prayer turns to a new chapter in the Nation's life.

We are grateful for the patriotism and fidelity of those honored by the Nation, who have stood as watchmen on the ramparts of our Republic in the perilous years through which we have been called to pass; statesmen who have given of their best and now, in the procession of history, step aside as the tumult and the shouting dies, and the captains and the kings depart.

We pray for a special portion of Thine enabling might, a holy ordination upon the President and the Vice President of the United States and the coadjutors who have been chosen, the few out of the many, to counsel with them, as in cooperation with the Congress they chart the course and determine the direction of our America in the momentous years that loom ahead.

Forbid that for any partisan advantage the precious oil of national unity should be spilled upon the ground, to ignite selfish fires. May it, rather, still feed the flame of liberty's torch as it enlightens the awakening world, where freedom and slavery struggle in mortal combat.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1961

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we turn, unfilled to Thee, grant to our anxious, groping hearts the assurance that behind the shadows and in them standeth One who slumbers not nor sleeps.

With our human limitations we are beset by perplexities. Our needs are many as we turn from problem to problem; but our greatest need is of Thee. Unless we find Thee and are found of Thee, the laws of Thy physical universe will break our mortal life and the laws of Thy moral realm will make mockery of our futile rebellions.

Only in Thy will is our peace. And so, Eternal Father, whose mercy is like the wideness of the sea, breathe anew on hearts that pray for the peace that comes only when our jarring discords are tuned to the music of Thy will. Then, as radiant heralds of Thy love, send us forth across all barriers of race and creed, bearing to yearning hearts around the whole, wide world, as a holy sacrament, the bread of human kindness and the red wine of sacrificial service. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, who hath taught us that only in the reach of our love is the richness of our life, may no concern for self or ill will for others blur the goal of our glorious

destiny among the nations as the instrument of Thy providence to free the earth from tyranny.

To this end, our God, bless our America.

Thou seest, in spite of the worst things in us which we despise, that in our highest hours our deepest desire is to be the true servants of Thy purpose in these times of social upheaval.

Grant us the grace, O Lord, to cherish and preserve evermore the heritage that is ours through the valor and virtue of those whose record, within these very Halls, has helped make the greatness of our Nation.

Inspire us so to follow their shining example that we may not only hold our inheritance as a sacred and precious trust, but, by our love and labor, leave it with increased luster to those who shall come after us.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1961

Our Father, God, at the beginning of another week of counsel, with the deep desire that on his high hill of the Nation's welfare, all our deliberations may be begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we enter this forum of the people's hope through the gateway of prayer.

We thank Thee for memories of our fathers, who, in turbulent days, maintained their souls in peace and poise, and came through more than conquerers. Beget in us, their children, the secret of their strength, and in these days let us not be affrighted.

To our Nation and to ourselves, grant inner assurance that will not be shaken by the rage of deluded men.

As Thy servants and the people's in this temple of democracy, save us from any perversion of power that has not Thee in awe. Upon the altar of our freedom may there ever be lifted the offering of humble and contrite hearts.

In this day of destiny for us and for the world may we be worthy of our vocation as keepers of the sacred flame.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, who dost overarch our fleeting years with Thine eternity and dost undergird our weakness with Thy strength: In the midst of the pressures of another week, as Thy servants here face its vast concerns, with bowed heads and hearts we pause at this shrine of our spirits.

Without Thee, even our wistful hopes for humanity are like withered leaves—once verdant and bright, but now brown and crumbled ruins blown upon a bitter wind.

Join us, we pray Thee, in kinship to those who, in other times that tried men's souls, went on believing in beauty and love and God, in the midst of ugliness, hatred, and horror.

As with deep craving for reality we turn now to Thee, we remember that we date this day's deliberations from the lowly cradle of One who died on the gallows of His day—mocked, reviled, insulted, outraged. Yet that torturing cross of defeat sways the future.

By its crimson sign which towers o'er the wrecks of time, may we conquer—in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1961

O THOU WHO ART FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, in Thy providence it is our appointed lot to live and toil when, as never before, humanity has struck its tents and is on the march.

We are pilgrims. We cannot go back to any past. We cannot call a halt at any spot where we fain would stay.

Our divine commission is to discard that which has been outgrown, and which, with wider vision, is seen now to be unworthy; and at the same time it is ours to maintain and conserve that which is vital.

Give us to see, we pray, that the priceless wisdow gained in the experience of the yesterdays is to be woven into the changing patterns of the tomorrows. Ordain us anew as custodians of the treasures inherited from the past, and also as stewards entrusted to join experience and adventure to make a better future. As Thy servants, who are the representatives of the people, stand at the great divide between the past and the future, may their gaze these sacred weeks be upon the Christ of the ages, who came, not to destroy, but to fulfill, and in whose arms are all the treasures of ancient good and all the hope of the untried and untrodden days. In His spirit send us forth, not knowing whither we go, but as travelers with high assurance as we follow Him, whose goal is the Kingdom of Righteousness, for whose coming we pray, in His ever-blessed name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1961

Our Father, God, on this fair day when the Chief Executive of the Republic has dedicated in the Nation's Capital a temple of conservation, a noble symbol of our vital resources, we lift our doxology for the good land which Thou hast given us. Roll upon our consciences, we pray, our responsibility as trustees who occupy this land for so brief a span.

Before Thee, the Lord of all the earth, we would regard our inheritance as holy ground—for the earth is Thine,

and all that is therein—whose beauty is to be reverenced, whose forests are to be guarded, whose soil is to be preserved, whose primeval reaches and ranges are to be unspoiled, and whose wildlife is to be protected.

We are grateful that for our day Thou art raising up prophets like Nehemiah of old, who are crying to the despoilers of our national wealth, "Behold, we are the servants of that larger and opulent land Jehovah's great goodness hath given to our fathers."

Enable us to exercise our stewardship wisely and well for the sake of those whose distant feet we hear coming along the future's broadening way.

We ask this in the name of Him who in a wayside flower saw a glory surpassing the robes of royalty. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1961

ETERNAL SPIRIT, Thou hast written Thy law on the tablets of our hearts. In Thy fellowship alone, we find peace for our spirits and power for our tasks.

In the brooding silence of this still moment of devotion, may open windows of faith, flood our gloom with Thy light, that in Thy sunshine's blaze this day may brighter, fairer be.

We come with hearts grateful for freedom's glorious light, with no walls or curtains to blot it out. Dowered with privileges as no other nation, may the richness of our heritage be to us Thy call to protect the weak and exploited, to unshackle the enslaved, to clear the way for freedom everywhere, that through the potent ministry of our dear land, all peoples of the earth may be blessed.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, in the heat and burden of days that drain our strength and demand our best, we would find the springs by the wayside—the living water whose elixir alone can refresh and restore our bodies and spirits, saving us from physical exhaustion, from spiritual impoverishment, from the numbness of routine, and from all cynicism and bitterness of heart. Through the sincere expression of differing appraisals in this Chamber, may the final wisdom that charts the Nation's course in these perilous days be higher than our own.

Set our feet on lofty places,
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee.

Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1961

O THOU GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, WHOSE THRONE IS TRUTH: Frail creatures of dust, serving our brief day on the world's vast stage, we would set our little lives in the midst of Thine eternity and feel around us Thy greatness and Thy peace.

Like flowers in spring gardens, uplifted to the sun; like still waters that mirror the eternal stars, so we would lift our yearning souls to Thee, our light and our life, our help and our hope.

We pray that the institutions of justice, of united endeavor and mutual understanding, which are being set up amid the

agitations of these anxious, yet hopeful days, may become the instruments of Thy providence in bringing to fulfillment, at last, the prophet's dream—"violence shall no more be heard in Thy land, wasting nor destruction within Thy borders."

Give us faith which rises above frustration, patience which will bear the strain of waiting, good will which cannot be discouraged even by duplicity, and forgiveness for those who repent, as we, ourselves, ask to be forgiven.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1961

Our Father, God, we turn to Thee for refuge from the noise and hurry of the world without, and from the tyranny of selfish moods and motives within.

May we fear only to be disloyal to the best we know, to betray those who love and trust us, and to disappoint Thy expectations concerning us.

In a divided world where we see the dreadful penalties of gulfs of separation between humans who ought to stand together for mutual advantage, dedicate us in this anguished generation as builders of bridges across all the yawning spaces which mar this sadly sundered earth.

Help us this new day to meet its satisfactions with gratitude, its difficulties with fortitude, its duties with fidelity. Deliver us from petty irritations which spoil the music of life and which distort our perspectives. Bring us to the ending of the day unashamed and with a quiet mind because it is stayed on Thee.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1961

O THOU ETERNAL SPIRIT, in whose will alone is our peace, and whose holy purposes are beyond defeat, we come seeking Thy righteous will, and crave Thine enabling strength to do it, as we go on day by day, step by step.

Thou knowest that constantly we pray, "Thy kingdom come," but we confess that often the flaming hope of that kingdom of love has grown dim, as hatred and selfishness and man's inhumanity to man have desecrated the earth, which could be so fair. But, in spite of temporary rebuffs, give us to see that wherever hatred gives way to love, wherever prejudice is changed to understanding, wherever the pangs of hunger are stopped by bread, wherever pain is soothed, and ignorance banished, there Thy banners go and Thy truth is marching on.

So, with all our inadequacies, we pause, this quiet moment, asking that even amid the din of conflict we may keep step with the distant drumbeat of Thy sure victory.

We ask it in the name of the One upon whose radiant form the eyes of millions of His followers are fixed, these holy days, as He goes on to change a cross of defeat into a crown of triumph. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1961

GRACIOUS GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou searcher of men's hearts, from whom no secrets are hid, we would turn aside from the feverish ways of the world, knowing that only in Thee can we find the strength to endure.

Amid the draining duties of these demanding days, only by the spiritual resources that are found in Thee may our jaded spirits be refreshed and our souls restored.

In this dear land of our love and prayer, may we close our national ranks in a new unity, as sinister powers without Thee in awe plot to destroy the birthright of our liberty of worship, and of speech, and the sanctity of the individual.

We pledge our hopes, our faith, our lives,
That freedom shall not die;
We pray Thy guidance, strength, and grace,
Almighty God on high.

Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1961

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GLORY, unto whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid, teach us to pray, for we are keenly conscious that the world in which our common days are spent is poor preparation for communion with Thee. Yet, we need Thee; every hour we need Thee.

We are disturbed by the public menace of our times, burdened by many anxieties, tempted to be cynical because of human evil, and of faint hope because of human folly. We confess that too often we are fretted by small problems and blown off our course by great storms that sweep the earth.

We pray, today, for our divided and violent world, and for ourselves in the midst of it, that we may not increase its dissension by our ill temper and prejudice, but may widen every area of good will our influence can reach.

Give us the strength to carry on, whatever the future may hold, knowing that nothing can befall us as a nation and as individuals that as laborers together with Thee we cannot withstand and master.

So make our hearts strong in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1961

O THOU GOD OF TRUTH, FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, we thank Thee that Thou hast so fashioned our hearts that our deepest instincts anchor us to Thee, and that he who loves the truth can never miss Thee at the last.

In a mad and violent day, may we walk and work in the peace that the world cannot give, in the charity that thinketh no evil, in the good will that bridges all chasms.

In spite of the paganism that afflicts the world, grant us to dream great dreams and not to be disobedient to the heavenly vision. And though the hope betimes seems forlorn, may we be found ready to lead it. Without stumbling and without stain, may we follow the gleam until the day is over and our work is done.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1961

GOD OF THE LIVING AND OF THE LIVING DEAD, in all the uncertainties of our mortal way, we turn to Thee with the assurance that we can never drift beyond the circle of Thy love, which notes even a sparrow's fall, and in whose universal rule of law the stars are held in their courses.

This day we hold in grateful remembrance one for whom that love divine was revealed supremely in the strange Man upon His cross.

At the opening of this session we would pause to lift the name of Thy servant—the friend of us all—James E. Murray, who for more than a quarter of a century served Thee and his Nation in this Chamber.

Now that his earthly career of doing good to others has come to its close, we keep in memory his soft-spoken gentleness of manner and his unruffled courtesy, his forthright-

ness and steadfastness of conviction. We record his tender sympathy for the underprivileged and the dispossessed, his eager contribution to the furthering of measures that would lift the level of human welfare, and his championship of the crusade to guard the treasures of the land he hallowed for the sake of the future which will inherit it.

Gird us with Thy grace, that, like him, we may be workmen who need not to be ashamed. We ask it in the name of the Master he adored. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1961

O Thou God of Life and Light, our glad hearts thrill at the risen glory of the awakening earth robed in the blooming garb of spring.

As common bushes, lately so bare, are now aflame, and the time for the singing of birds has come, may a spiritual springtime make our own hearts even as the garden of the Lord, where barren branches may be clothed with the beauty of holiness, and the flowers of humility and charity lift their fair petals above the fallow ground.

Prepare our hearts for the solemn glory of a malefactor's cross and for the splendor of an empty tomb. By the sign of that cross, on which Thy Son gave His deathless spirit to Thy keeping, strengthen us with might for the good fight we must wage against the gates of hell, knowing that joy is the fruit of sorrow; that strength comes out of weakness, and triumph out of failure; that song comes through sacrifice, gain through loss, and life through death.

In that faith may we fare forth, greeting the unknown with a cheer, sure that the third day cometh.

In His conquering name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1961

O Thou God and Father of us all, amid all the global concerns which drain our strength and devour our hours, somehow, sometime, somewhere, this week of the passion, may we take time for commerce and communion with the unseen and eternal, where, in an oasis of quietness, there may be restored the inner resources of our pressured lives.

So, may the obtrusive secularism which blocks the door of our hearts be pushed back, and let the way be cleared, that the highest and best may enter and meet no obstacle.

Thus may we celebrate the singing Easter of the soul.

We ask it in the name of the Holy One who despised the shame and endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1961

Our Father, God, in the afterglow of earth's gladdest day we come girding ourselves with its deathless message, as in the sense of the Eternal we take up our daily tasks again in these fields of time.

We rejoice, this hour, that all that the world celebrated yesterday with jubilant awe is not just a promise, but is a possession. Today we may be risen with the One who stepped out of a spoiled and beaten grave. Already we have passed from death to life.

May we know in truth that life in the here and now takes on a new sheen, a new value, a new dimension.

Above all the clamor of these agitated days may we hear Thy call to that which is excellent, generous, and true—rising in newness of life above that which is coarse, selfish, and false.

May the Risen Life make us persons of brotherly love in an unbrotherly world; to others' faults make us forgiving, as we would be forgiven. As our risen lives touch the lives of others, teach us to be gentle in our attitudes, just in our dealings, fair in our judgments, and steadfast in our purpose, though pressed by every foe.

We ask it in the Risen Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1961

Our Father, God, we turn again and again to Thee, that in the midst of the false lights of our mortal pilgrimage we may never lose sight of the perfect righteousness which we struggle so imperfectly to achieve.

Thy purpose for mankind, which arches the whole world, reveals how far short we fall in our own halting obedience to Thy will.

In prayer we catch broken glimpses of the haunting beauty of Thy holiness. In our tests and trials, our frustrations and failures, may we rejoice that, looking beyond our frailty, our faith and hope may be anchored in Thee.

In this Chamber of governance, upon which is the gaze of the agitated and anxious peoples of the world, grant to those who here stand and speak for the millions, the long look and a courageous spirit.

Forbid that those thus lifted to pedestals of responsibility should ever be governed in their decisions by mere precedent, or that their horizons should be limited by boundaries of time and space, of frontier or race, which have no meaning for Thee, who dost hold the whole world in Thy hand.

We ask it in the name of the world's Redeemer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, for this hallowed moment we would hush our feverish clamor to silence, that the voice of Thy guidance may be heard, as we face perplexing problems which tie us so closely to the seething world.

We are conscious that it is a world where tyrants still deal in fetters and chains as they attempt to shackle the free spirits of men made in Thy image. We praise Thee for the multitude in every land with whom we are joined, who cherish freedom of body and mind more than life itself.

Our Father, never let us forget that it is in earthen vessels that we have the treasure of freedom which we guard.

Save us, O Lord, from the hypocrisy of beholding a speck in another's eye, without being aware of the log that is in our own eye.

Grant us inner discernment, so that behind all the facades of security, privilege, and success we may honestly recognize the imperfect condition of our own lives, even as Thou dost know it.

In all our striving to defend the truth, preserve in us the grace of self-criticism, so that the living faith of the dead may not become the dead faith of the living.

We ask it in the name of the Redeemer who is the truth and the light. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, who committeth to us the swift and solemn trust of life, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet may go, and the humblest work will shine and the roughest places be made plain.

Teach us to value a conscience void of offense and the royalty of inward contentment above all the pedestals, prizes, and preferments earth can offer. May the tyranny of majorities and the tirades of minorities be equally impotent to sway us from the right as Thou dost give us to see it.

Along the road of this day and of every day may be walk in the bright fellowship of those who will be able to say at the last, "I have fought a good fight; I have kept the faith." In the name of the Master of all good workmen, we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1961

ETERNAL FATHER, in a world that lieth in darkness swept by fitful winds of despair and doubt, for this hallowed moment we pause at this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that the light within us is not dimmed. In this desperate hour of the Nation's life, when the world's hope of a bright tomorrow is so largely committed to our frail hands, join us, we pray Thee, to the great company of unconquered spirits who, in other evil times, has stood their ground, preserving the heritage of man's best, and whose flaming faith has made them as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom.

In this difficult and dangerous era, be Thou our pillar of cloud by day, and of fire by night, as patiently and obediently we follow the kindly light of Thy guidance. As deadly perils threaten the birthright of our liberties, help us to close our national ranks in a new unity. Hasten the coming of the radiant kingdom when each man's rule will be all men's good, and universal peace will lie like a shaft of light across the lands, and as a lane of beams across the sea.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1961

FATHER OF OUR LIFE, FOUNTAIN OF OUR BEING, we thank Thee for the light of Thy countenance which illumines even drab days with eternal splendor. Without that light we walk in darkness; without Thee as guide our boasted progress but leads to the quagmires of futility and oblivion; without Thee our science but whets the sword to a sharper edge and destroys us with our own wheels and wings; without Thee commerce cannot save us for selfish trade but lifts the hunger of covetousness to a higher pitch; without Thee even education cannot redeem us, for we see now that the mere sharpening of the intellect, the massing of facts and figures, may but fit men to be tenfold more masterful in the awful art of slaughter.

In this day of crisis in our national life may we not miss the way. Shatter our delusions, shine through our blindness, shame our materialism, and, through our shared blood and sweat and tears as we defend the things that have made our America great, bring us at last to a common victory for the inalienable rights of all men everywhere.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, beset by the perplexities of these calamitous times with all their fury and terror, let not the heavenly vision fade nor our courage fail.

Strengthen in us the faith that Thy goodness faileth never, and renew our belief in the unrealized possibilities for greatness in Thy erring children—in spite of the stupid folly by which they have devastated the good earth Thou has given, and have marred the costly works of their own hands.

Give us the lift and exaltation of spirit that come to those whose powers are dedicated, not only to opposing the evils they are against, but to bringing to coronation the ideals they are for.

Amid the wrecks of ancient systems, these tumultuous days, make us worthy in our motives and desires to help lead humanity toward the promised land of a loftier life and a cleaner and fairer world for all the disenfranchised and exploited peoples of the earth.

Gird us to met with the might of righteousness and justice the massed forces of evil now loose in the world—

> That we may tell our sons who see the light
> High in the heavens, their heritage to take;
> I saw the powers of darkness put to flight,
> I saw the morning break.

Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1961

O God, whose spirit searcheth all things, and who seeketh us, even when we grope in the midst of uncertainty, incline our hearts to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth.

We do not ask that Thou shouldst give heed to the poverty and pettiness of petitions that may spring out of the perversion of our own warped desires. But we beseech Thee to hear and answer the deep cry of our inner need.

Illumine our darkened minds, that they may yield their devotion to Thy kingdom, and Thy light be thus shed, through us, upon the dark places of the earth, that the habitations of violence may be destroyed, and that to human misery and wrong there may come oil of joy for sadness, and beauty for ashes.

As we think of our Nation, conceived in liberty and consecrated to the common rights of man, may we fear nothing but to fail humanity and Thee. To the councils of our leaders, fraught with such awesome responsibility, give wisdom that is from above. In an hour which calls for greatness may our public service be a sacrament, and our politics purged of corroding littleness.

So may our personal devotion help to throw up a highway, across which the hopes and dreams of those who have seen the City of God across the hills of time may go on in triumph, from victory to victory.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 8, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, who art the center and soul of every sphere, we, Thy children, on this wandering island in the sky, a speck amid the vastness of space, look to Thee, Lord of all being, whose glory flames from sun and star.

Let us not be confounded by the empty spaces, or affrighted by world beyond world unfathomable.

As this day we join the chorus of praise for one daring explorer of unknown space, and for the thousands whose cooperation made his exploit possible, help us with our finite minds to see behind the bewildering universe in which Thou, great God, hast put us. Lift up our hearts to say, like our fathers in times past, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou had'st formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."

In this day, as man probes for expanded knowledge of space without, make real to us the universe within, and that there lies our fortune and our destiny—for there truth may

walk in shining garments and goodness grow glorious, and beauty be beautiful, indeed.

Give us to see the empty futility of any attempt to export evil to some other star, when the same evil has spoiled so much of the music of life on this terrestrial ball. Make plain to all mankind that the kingdom all good and just men seek is within, and must be regnant there before the kingdom for which we pray can cover the earth.

May an abiding sense of Thy presence and guidance rest upon the President of this body, our Nation's Vice President, as he goes on his far journey to tell nations in confusion and commotion that America's might—material, moral, and spiritual—is pledged to men of good will everywhere who unite to insure a just world peace for our children and theirs.

We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, who turneth Thy face toward those who work Thy will in the world, as on yet another day we take anew the cup of our freedom, crimsoned with great cost, may we be gratefully mindful of its sacred meaning. As those lifted to pedestals of public office, may we be reverent in its use. Make more worthy in faith and uprightness the hands of those who hold it high in trust for all.

Keep us faithful when others falter; keep us still pursuing when others give up the quest; keep us hopeful when our fairest dreams seem as but mocking mirages of the desert; keep our integrity unsullied when the siren songs of selfish expediency assail our ears, as we labor on with valor for the enthronement on earth of Thy reign of law and love, of equity and righteousness, nor ever doubt the final triumph of Thy redemptive purposes for all men.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 15, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, whose service is perfect freedom, we praise Thee for the vision of liberty which, like a bow of promise, arches the dark skies and inspires mankind to overthrow all despotism and to break the fetters of oppression.

We praise Thee O Lord for the judgment and wisdom of all those, guided by Thee, who designed and founded the nations and institutions in which liberty is enshrined.

In this day of global conflict for the bodies and minds of man we pray that Thou wilt purge and cleanse our own hearts that we may be found worthy to march with the armies of emancipation which bring both liberty and release from the want and woe which beset so many millions of Thy children and grind them into the dust of poverty.

In this day of battle when there is sounding forth a trumpet which must never know retreat, we praise Thee for the courage, the labor, and the sacrifice of all those who are anywhere challenging and fighting the enemies of freedom.

In this day our ages telling, good Lord deliver us from discouragement, appeasement of evil, indifference, petty prejudice, and from all attitudes and actions and words which may hinder the achievement of a just and lasting world-wide peace of good will.

We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, in whose sight 1,000 years are but as yesterday when it is past. In Thy presence may we see ourselves as we really are, but weak and erring men who are greatly in need of Thy mercy.

Sanctify our imaginations to take in the far horizons of human need. In all the material acquisitions of things to live with, keep us from forgetting the things worth living for. Save us from falling on the sword of our own prosperity. Grant us we beseech Thee, as we face this seething world with all its ferment of unrest, a new baptism of passionate concern and care to help heal all the open sores of this sadly severed world.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, at noonday, 'mid all the traffic of the ways, we would lift our souls into the light of Thy Presence, that our perspectives may be corrected, and our sense of proportion restored, for we confess that often the errors of our fallible judgment grow out of mistaken magnitudes.

Wherever we serve in the great struggle now raging, molding the age to come and determining the world our children's children will inherit, may we be ever mindful that still stands Thine ancient sacrifice—an humble and a contrite heart.

Even out of the wrath of man may there come the reign of God whose alone is the power and glory, and the kingdom of love, which has no frowning frontiers.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1961

OUR GRACIOUS FATHER, hushing our thoughts to silence may we find Thee moving upon our minds higher than our highest thought, yet nearer to us than our very selves. Before the toil of a new day opens for these servants of the

people, we would lay before Thee the meditations of our hearts: may they be acceptable in Thy sight.

Prepare us for the solemn role committed to our fallible hands in this appalling day, with its vast issues that concern not only our own dear land, but all the continents and the islands of the sea.

Make us ministers of that healing love which will not halt its growing sway until it joins all nations and kindreds and tongues and peoples into one great fraternity of mutual service, including the least and the last of Thy children.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 22, 1961

God of all mercies, as the pressing demands, of another week summon Thy servants here to high endeavor, we would pause for the sound of the trumpets in the morning—trumpets of faith and of hope.

In this national forum, with all its divergent human interests, we would rear an altar where a constant sense of eternal values may save us from spiritual decay, from moral cowardice, and from any betrayal of the highest public good. Only when our outlook is cleansed and corrected by constant communion with Thee, and by the far horizons of the heavenly vision, can we see the transient in the light of the everlasting.

And so, like tillers of the soil who stand reverently with bowed heads, listening to the music of holy bells, we too would be strengthened with might in the inner man as each new day our ears wait for the sweet chimes of Thy approval. Send us forth to meet an agitated world with a tranquillity that is strength, and an inner integrity which is the courage of the soul.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, whose mercy and patience, like the wideness of the sea, are never exhausted by Thy erring children.

In the midst of toiling days, as the fever and fret of these clamorous times take their toll of our spirits, we are grateful for quiet arbors where we can look out and up to the hills of our help and where sighs and sobs turn to songs of deliverance from panic and defeat.

In Thy light may we bring to the bar of judgment the motives which have betrayed our highest quests, the methods which have failed us and the values which have cheated us. Earthen vessels though we are, give us a part in making the crooked things straight and earth's deserts blossom as the rose.

We ask it in the name of the Master who makes all things new. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, with each new morning with its unfinished tasks there dawns the sweet consciousness—we are with Thee. We come not so much to seek Thee as to open our faltering lives in penitence and deep need to Thy ever-waiting strength.

In all the deliberations that center in this Chamber save those who here speak and act for the Nation from substituting quick and undisciplined judgments for the ripened wisdom which has been enriched by the experience of the past.

May our own lives, freed of pettiness and prejudice and radiant with good will which leaps all barriers to brother-

hood, be fit channels through which Thy saving grace may flow for the healing of the nations. We ask it in the name of the Redeemer. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, who art above all and in all: We seek Thee as our fathers before us have sought Thee in every generation.

Amid all the subtle dangers that beset us, save us from the fatal folly of attempting to rely upon our own strength.

Gird us with Thy might, that the strain of these days may not break our spirits when deluded men who have not Thee in awe imagine vain things. May no denials of human freedom now loose in the world intimidate our souls.

When the problems which front us seem insoluble, when the very principles for which brave men have died are betrayed, when the seamless robe of world unity is rent in twain, when even the shining river of our dreams seems to sink into the sands of futility, still may we labor on, serene and confident that Thy sure victory cometh in the morning, when we shall see that these clouds are lies and that the blue sky is the truth.

We bring our morning prayer in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1961

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, may the silence of this hallowed moment our fathers set aside for the far look, lift up our hearts with the glad assurance that they that are for us are more than those that dare to defy Thy will for all mankind. To a world where evil seems so rampant may our

individual contribution be a life purged of self, of all impurity and hatred, moved by compassion and by concern for all mankind.

We ask that Thy benediction and a sense of Thy guidance, a solemn realization that we are indeed our brothers' keeper, may rest upon the chosen leaders of the Nation in these tempestuous times. In our dealing with all the peoples of the world, in nations great and small, may we be so transparently just and fair that at last falsehood and every evil thing that shuns the light may be banished by the truth which makes men free.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 29, 1961

O Thou God of Grace and Glory, we are grateful for the cleansing ministry of memory as on the morrow the Nation turns, with countless fluttering flags, to the grassy mounds of the patriot dead.

May this sacrament of remembrance summon this land of the free to face with a new determination the never-ending struggle to maintain and preserve the freedoms which have been bought at so crimson a cost.

As even sterner tests in the agelong battle between freedom and fetters loom ahead, as the moral and material resources, vast and untapped, of this land of our hope and our prayer are mobilized at any sacrifice to stem the forces of darkness, may this realm of the free celebrate its day of gratitude with a steadfast purpose and with a grim resolution that is worthy of the past and of the promise for the future.

As never before on the national day of retrospect may the starry flag speak of strength that is increased by spending,

of life that is saved by its losing, and of greatness that is measured by its serving.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1961

FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, with minds burdened for the Nation and for the world, we turn to Thee in this baffling hour, praying that in this fear-haunted earth the flame of our faith may not grow dim. Unworthy though we are, Thou hast made us keepers for our day of the holy torch of freedom the Founding Fathers kindled with their lives.

We would share that sacred fire until tyranny everywhere is consumed and thus all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Steel our wills and steady our hands with power and wisdom, that with eager joy we may dedicate the Nation's strength to throw open the gates of a new life for Thy children everywhere.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1961

O THOU WHOSE APPROVAL we seek above the hollow applause of men, at noonday we pause in the midst of thronging duties and vital issues that, in our darkness, Thou mightest lift upon us the light of Thy countenance.

Amid all the tinsel of material things deliver us from any camouflaged selfishness which shrinks the soul, from unreasoned hatred which eats like a canker, from any impurity which blinds the inner eyes to Thee and the godlike about us, and from the cynicism of unbelief which dims the splendor of the glory life may hold.

Save us from the distorted vision which magnifies the speck in our neighbor's eye and ignores the splinter in our own, leading us to condemn in others the faults we condone in ourselves.

May those who stand in this holy place of public trust, as daily they ascend this Hill of solemn responsibility, come with clean hands and pure hearts and a passion to serve the present age.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, once more at the beginning of a new week's challenge—

> We come unto our fathers' God,
> Their rock is our salvation,
> The eternal arms their dear abode,
> We make our habitation.

Since Thou art our Father may we not attempt to hide our shortcomings from Thee but to overcome them and surmount them by the stern comfort of Thy healing presence.

May we find joy in the loveliness of nature, in the strength of friendship, in the conquest of difficulty, and in the compensations of service.

In all our dealings with those who walk by our side, and who are tempted even as we, may we say to them and of them the generous things which would be upon our lips if they were here no more.

Grant us the supreme satisfaction of giving our best to every task and of having faced every duty without bitterness, with charity for all and malice toward none.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1961

ETERNAL SPIRIT, WHOM WE SEEK IN VAIN WITHOUT, unless we first find Thee within, may the healing hush of Thy presence in this hallowed moment fall upon our feverish and driven lives.

In a time for greatness, save us from small choices and from dwarfed perspectives. Deliver us from inner cowardice which makes us unwilling to pay the high price of better things. Teach us, this day, in all our dealings with others, to enthrone wisdom upon our tongues and kindness within our hearts.

Grant to us to dream great dreams and not to disobey the heavenly vision, and though the hope sometimes seems forlorn, may we be found without stumbling and without stain, facing, unafraid, unnumbered foes.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, through the lowly gate of penitence we would enter the inner chamber of peace, where the harsh noises of the clamorous world are hushed and, in quietness of spirit, we face ourselves and Thee.

Thou only art our defense amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. From the terror that cometh by night, and the arrow that flieth by day, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth by noonday, good Lord deliver us.

We ask Thy blessing upon the men of our generation who raise Thy standards against pagan blasphemies, the men who guard the rights of their fellow men, the men who are not neutral in time of evil, the men who turn not away their face when the wicked would barter the birthright of freedom for the mess of pottage, of petty gain or glory.

Guide us and guard us and lead us forward so that, through our labors in this moment of history, we shall be in truth the living witnesses of Thy righteous will, helping to hasten the time when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of Thy truth even as the waters cover the sea.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1961

O Thou Father of all mankind, at noontide, in this pavilion of prayer, help us to fling open the shuttered windows of our darkened lives to the effulgent light of Thy presence so that in our daily tasks we may reflect some broken beams of Thy glory.

Teach us by the adventure of faith how to be victors over life, not victims of it, and that to live worthily we must have a faith fit to live by, a self fit to live with, and a cause fit to live for.

Enlarge the sensitive area of our sympathy, we pray. Write deep upon our hearts the misery and pain of the shepherdless millions who are now crying out for relief from the ills that beset them.

Guide our Nation to such use of its power and privilege as may cause the needy peoples of the earth to rise up and call us blessed.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1961

O Thou God of Love and Hope, through all the length of changing years Thy goodness failed never. Away from all the divisive forces of the world in which our lot is cast, forces which tear, and separate, and push apart, we would

bow in penitence at the altar of the one God whose love shed abroad in our hearts alone can send us forth on our differing and often difficult task, hoping all things and enduring all things.

We pray that Thou wilt enable, with the light of Thy wisdom and the strength of Thy might, those who in these fearful times in the ministry of public affairs have been entrusted with the stewardship of the national life.

Grant unto us that greatness of spirit which shall match the stupendous patterns of this creative day. May we never hesitate when the choice is between honor and selfish expediency.

O Thou God to whose kingdom the future belongs, use us in our loyalty to America at its best, as pioneers of a better habitation for humanity, both for ourselves and for all the peoples of the earth.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1961

Our Father, God, we thank Thee for altars of prayer where, in high moments of unclouded faith, moods of doubt which often assail us seem treason to that changeless world where Thou dost reign in the uninvaded realm of the excellent and the true. Finding here the gifts of pardon and peace, may the memory of Thy past mercies mingle like sweet incense with a strengthening assurance of Thy present nearness which no malignity, nor cruel violence of man's devising, can snatch from those whose minds are stayed on Thee.

Make this storied Chamber of our national life a place of vision, a lighthouse of hope lifted above the raging floods of human disaster and distress. May those who

here speak for the Nation be the architects of a new order for peace and justice and freedom for men in all the earth. Send forth Thy servants here to waiting tasks, grateful for a precious heritage worth living for and, if need be, dying for, and with a deathless cause that no weapon that has been formed can defeat.

In Thy might lift up our hearts and make us strong. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1961

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL MEN, trusting only in Thy everlasting mercy would we seek Thy face. We lift the paeon of our gratitude for all the gentle and healing ministries which soothe our often jaded and troubled souls. We thank Thee for the bright gladness of the morning after Thou hast washed the earth with rain, for the melody of the birds, for the freedom of the wind, for the drifting clouds and for the poems we call trees and flowers.

Above all we are grateful for the tender touch of human love, for the selflessness of parents, the smiles and confidence of little children, the patience of teachers, the loyalty of friends, and the lofty integrity of public servants who pour out their dedication that our liberties may be preserved and exported to the ends of the earth.

Drawing refreshment from vineyards we did not plant, drinking at cisterns we did not dig, knowing the very freedoms for which we contend have been bought with a crimson price, make us eager in the supreme tests of these days of destiny to make our individual service part payment on an unpayable debt.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

O LORD, OUR GOD, reverently we bow in the plentiude of Thy mercies which are new every morning.

We give Thee thanks for the tasks which Thou hast given us to accomplish and for the strength to do whatever is committed to our hands.

Give us to see that the lessons which Thou hast set us to learn in Thy great school of discipline are the steps to deeper comprehensions and to broader fields of service.

Amid all masquerades of error and the sophistries of the cynical which seek to deceive our day lead us in the paths of righteousness and truth.

In this hour we would lift our prayer for the undergirding of Thy sustaining grace for a trusted and beloved colleague of all in this Chamber, upon whose path have fallen the shadows of a deep personal grief.

While carrying the heavy responsibilities of his national stewardship Thou knowest the anxiety and concern of this servant of the Nation as he has tenderly ministered to the dear companion of the long years as her strength ebbed away with the passing months.

And now as the one who has taken and the other left, may the honored President pro tempore of this body, whose patience and quiet poise are a source of strength to all his counselors here, himself be sustained by the consolations of Thy grace and by a strength not his own, bringing the realization in his poignant loss that underneath are the everlasting arms.

We ask it in the name of that One who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1961

God of grace and glory, we thank Thee for the radiance of Thy truth which no denial can ever put out. Across our shadowed earth, send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead us; let them bring us to Thy holy hill. Increase in us the moral passion which shares Thy righteous indignation with all that makes or loves a lie.

Cleanse our own hearts; cast out the defilements we have cherished in our own lives, which should be the channels of Thy will.

Bewildered by the world's confusion, we are tempted to lose certitude, stability, and self-control. Too often our own distraught spirits but mirror the angry emotions of a violent time. Knowing how insufficent we are of ourselves for these terrific days, send us forth strengthened with Thy might to front tasks that tax our utmost, with the glad assurance "He restoreth my soul."

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1961

Our Father, God, we thank Thee for the new day bathed in the splendor of June, and for the fragrance and tint of the tiniest flower; for the mystic beauty of lights and shadows weaving patterns of glory across the verdant fields and templed hills. Through it all, and in the laughter and tears of our fellow pilgrims, and in the silent places of our own souls, tune our hearts to hear Thy accents, that we may know we do not walk alone.

Bring to us the vivid consciousness that in all the misery and woe of the earth which is our home, Thy voice to us is calling.

Deliver us from the folly of coming to Thee with empty words burdened with no agony of desire for the coming of Thy radiant kingdom of good will.

So undergird the lives of Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs that they may make decisions as in Thy sight, and, walking on the high levels of noble purposes, with kindling sympathies as wide as human needs, may in all things quit them like men.

In the Redeemer's blessed name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1961

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou hast made us in Thy image. That is the awesome thought that haunts and inspires all our mortal days. Yet it has pleased Thee to hide from us a perfect understanding—we see but as in a glass darkly. And so mystery and uncertainty meets us at every turn.

Yet we walk an unknown way in a sure faith in goodness and justice and truth—the unshakable belief that in the final reckoning even the gates of hell cannot prevail against that holy Trinity and of virtues and verities.

In the strength of that creed, to waiting problems and to demanding duties, Thy servants return to this place of governance from a national celebration which is tied to our tenderest memories—a revered day observed now with more denials of freedom than the world has ever known.

Again we have listened joyfully and gratefully to the peals of a liberty bell ringing clear and confident in our own hearts. With contrition for our failures and with a humility which our own imperfections keep from prideful boasting, we would lift our heartfelt plea: "America, America, God mend thine every flaw."

With the bells of freedom still ringing in this blessed land, solemnize us with the assurance that our free world holds the sanctuary of the hope of men for freedom on this earth, against the forward drive of ruthless power. It is in that holy crusade we march in Thy strength.

In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1961

O God, our Father, as servants of the national welfare, before, in the hearing of all the world, we talk of the Nation's good, we would lift our needy hearts to the Nation's God. Thou hast ordained that in the leadership of public affairs the care of the many must rest upon the shoulders of the few. Enable, we pray Thee, those thus lifted to posts of great power to cultivate the spirit of fairness and charity that differing opinions may not bitterly divide, nor practices dishonor, nor conflicts make us unkind.

Be patient with our impatience. In times of tension make us more forbearing and considerate one with another, remembering that even in the glare of public gaze each fights a hard battle and walks a lonely way.

Enrich us with a passionate care for others' needs without which all we say, even though we speak with the tongues of men and angels, is as but sounding brass and tinkling cymbals.

Help us in all our ways to be masters of ourselves that we may be the servants of all. Thus may we faithfully serve our baffled day as we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee, our God. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1961

ETERNAL SPIRIT, Thou true home of our souls, whence we sprang, to whom we belong, where alone we are altogether understood, and in whose love and fellowship we may renew our strength—with all our willful rebellions confront us, we beseech Thee, with a compelling vision of Thy will in which alone is our peace, that we may be stripped of pride and made humble and penitent.

We come to Thee conscious of those lofty and eternal verities that outlast the strident confusions of any day. Give us to know that not just to bygone centuries must we turn to hear Thy voice. Unstop our ears to hear Thy imperatives above the babel of crashing systems, yea, in and through the change and perplexities of our day, where Thou art searching and sifting out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat.

So, hearing and heeding the voice divine, may the response of our compassion help to heal this sorely wounded world, so hurt by man's inhumanity to man.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1961

GOD OF OUR FATHERS AND OUR GOD, we pause this dedicated moment to acknowledge that deeper than all else we are Thy children, and that supreme over every allegiance is our rightful loyalty to Thee.

Behold us here, in this historic forum, seeking in a common prayer light upon our ways and strength within our hearts.

We would dedicate ourselves anew to the building of a decent, humane, law-abiding world to which Thy reign shall come and Thy will be done.

To this end give us a vision splendid of a unified world which denies the divisive heresy that east is east, and west is west, and never the twain shall meet.

As this day, in this shrine of freedom, Western and Eastern hands are clasped in enduring friendship, and in mutual allegiance to the liberty and dignity of the individual under all skies, may there be strengthened and expanded bridges of understanding and cooperation which shall tie together in a resistless crusade peoples and lands, one in heart, though they be half a world away.

Give us the grace to be done with the tragic trifles which divide Thy children on this earth and to say, and to mean—

Join hands then, brothers of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as a son
Is truly kin to me.

We ask it in the name of the Elder Brother of us all. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1961

Almighty God, Father of our spirits, in knowledge of whom standeth our life:

From the tumult of world contentions would we seek the sanctuary of Thy presence, not that we may escape from the world, but that we may turn with a quiet mind to the perplexing maze of its tragic issues.

Whatever outward things these dangerous days take from us, by Thy grace may these testing times make us inwardly more adequate and wise, dependable and strong. As the winds blow harder may our spiritual roots strike deeper. Open our eyes to the evils among us that we condemn in others. Fit us faithfully to protect the Republic from outward aggression and from the treason of inner selfishness.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1961

O God, our strength and our Redeemer, in the glory and wonder of the new day, whatever we may face, support us with the faith that there is a heavenly power to lift us up which is stronger than all the earthly gravitation that pulls us down.

Deliver us from the folly of thinking or acting in moods of black despair as if we must carry the weight of the world upon our frail shoulders.

As we open up our lives to Thee in prayer we know that Thy completeness waits to flow around our incompleteness, and that not in our fallible weakness, but in Thy ageless power, are the issues of life and destiny.

Feeling ourselves part of the universal family of Thy children, make us quick to welcome every adventure in cooperation between the peoples of the world, so that within these historic walls of national decision may be woven the fabric of the common good, too strong to be torn by the evil hand of ruthless might.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 24, 1961

Our Father, God, as we come to Thee in all the wonder and challenge and uncertainty of new days and new weeks, we do not ask to see life's distant scenes—one step enough for us—enough for us the blessed assurance that Thou art the love that followest all the way.

Thou art the light that never fails, and the life that never ends.

Facing the tasks and problems of another week, save those who here serve in the ministry of public affairs from being embittered by ingratitude, pettiness, or meanness, and from cowardice in days when vital issues must be met.

Give us the grace to be true to our dreams, knowing that dreams are the stuff out of which cities are built, cathedral towers lifted against the sky, frowning mountains tunneled, and shining heroism and radiant goodness perfected.

In these times that try men's souls, by daring deeds of fearless faith may we not be disobedient to the heavenly vision.

In the name of the dear Redeemer we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1961

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, change and decay in all around we see, for all earthly things fade as a garment and as the flowers of the field, yet Thou remainest forever the same.

We are fretful creatures of this restless change. The hurrying pace of passing days, the stabbing loss of those we love, the terror of the shade of mortality which haunts our uncertain steps, all remind us that only upon Thy changeless concern for us can we build more stately mansions for our soul—its foundation the rock of Thy faithfulness, which is man's dwelling place in all generations.

In that firm reliance take away our needless fears, flood with Thy guiding light our confusions, and gird us with such strength as shall enable us to meet steadfastly whatever summons and challenge to our stewardship these days may hold.

We ask it in the name of the One who keeps our minds in perfect peace when we stay them on Him. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1961

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, the fountain of all wisdom and goodness, we thank Thee for the gift of sleep when the tangled web of weary strife and of perplexed thought emerges clarified and straightened by the magic touch of a new day.

In the midst of daily toil and ever-pressing tasks we lay before Thee the inner meditations of our hearts, grateful for the noontide pause at this wayside altar of peace and prayer.

Bring all our desires and powers, we beseech Thee, into conformity with Thy will. Prepare us for the role committed to our fallible hands in this appalling day with its vast issues that concern not only our own dear land, but all the continents and islands of the sea. May our individual lives be as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom of a world that lieth in darkness.

We ask it in the name of that One who is the Light of the World. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, all the ways of our direst needs lead us to Thee. For this quiet moment before the pressing concerns of a new day move in upon us, wilt Thou lift us above all stress and strain into the unhurried, healing calm of Thy presence.

Solemnize us with the responsibility of ability as here dedicated servants of the public weal face decisions affecting the lives and fortunes of untold millions who look anxiously to these halls of council for the wise word and the right action.

Make us strong to defend and maintain Thy truth and the right as Thou dost give us to discern it, yet always may we be seekers after a durable peace in all the earth with justice and freedom for all mankind. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1961

THIS DAY, O MASTER, let us walk with Thee. Teach us Thy patience. Help us to learn more and more to live by the faith that life's true values are spiritual and are expressed in our daily contacts, by character unsullied, and kindness, cheerfulness, humility, and compassion. In Thy light may we see clearly that the chief issues we face lie deeper far than human praise or blame and have to do with life's meaning and purpose and ultimate goals.

> God, the all righteous One.
> Man hath defied Thee;
> Yet to eternity, standeth Thy word;
> Falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside Thee;
> Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1961

LORD OF ALL BEING, whose banners are law and love, at another week's beginning, freighted with heavy tasks we bow at this altar of prayer in humility and with reverence for the things unseen and eternal.

On this speck of matter in the mighty whirlpool of the sky we felt ourselves so little when compared with the immensities of the universe in which we live. When we realize that beams of light which reached our planet in last night's darkness started on their long way before Jesus was born in an

eastern town, the news that puny man can now circle the earth a tiny inch above its surface but emphasizes the vastness of it all which staggers our finite minds.

We turn to Thee who art the center and soul of every sphere, knowing that the only thing that lifts our littleness into greatness and grandeur is that such frail creatures as we can be tied to Thy eternal purpose for the redemption of all mankind.

Give us, we pray in our valley of toil, a glowing vision of the final coronation of Thy goodness that shall shame our pessimism and gloom and send a shining ray far down the future's broadening way.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1961

O Thou God, who hatest a lie and who desireth truth in the inward parts, in these confused and confusing days amid perversions and falsehoods which wear the masks of sincerity as they bid for the allegiance of men, grant us the grace of discernment that we may not be deceived by servants of evil who wear the livery of heaven.

Seeing that which is real and excellent and of good report, with jubilant feet may we keep step with Thy victorious truth which is marching on and against which even the gates of hell cannot prevail.

With all the shame of our erring humanity which depresses us, it lifts up our hearts to know that its glory is that as Thy children, made in Thine image, we may live in the brightness of Thy love and be partners in the enthronement of Thy purpose. Through our dedication and through our

America, purged and exalted, may Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done in all the earth.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, into the calm and confidence of Thy waiting strength we would bring our drained resources that the benediction of Thy peace may fall upon our restless lives. For another day and for another chance to serve a world whose wounds are grievous and which so loudly calls for help, we are truly thankful.

We beseech Thee this day to free us from the hindering faults that so easily beset us. Deliver us from dread of the future, from the paralyzing fear of failure, from cowardice in face of danger, and from all compromise or appeasement with evil.

Grant us faith strong enough for the darkness through which we grope our way.

We pray, in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1961

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GLORY, whose mercy is like the wideness of the sea, Thou hast set us in a world of unfolding wonder and beauty. May the cares of this world never hide from our hearts the joy to be found in the loveliness of nature, in the strength of friendship, the conquest of difficulty, and in the compensations of selfless service.

In all our dealings with those who walk and toil by our side and who are tempted even as we, may we say to them, and of them to others, the generous things which would be

upon our lips if they were here no more. Preserve us from false judgment. Help us to judge others as we would be judged, to serve as we would be served, to understand as we would be understood.

When the shadows fall and evening comes, give us the supreme satisfaction that we have given our best to every task and that we have faced every duty without bitterness, with charity for all and malice toward none.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1961

ETERNAL GOD, FATHER OF ALL MEN, Thou hast taught us that in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength. In the midst of these feverish days we pray that Thou wilt breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm.

Take from our souls the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace.

Strengthen us with Thy might that the anxious pressures of these days may not break our spirits and that no denials of human freedom now loose in the world may intimidate our souls.

Dedicate us, we beseech Thee, in this anguished generation, as builders of bridges across all the yawning gulfs which mar the fellowship of this sadly divided earth.

Give us a part in bringing in a redeemed world delivered from ruthless aggression which threatens the human gains of a thousand years.

We ask it in the name of that One who is the truth and the way. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1961

O God, before whom the long travail of the passing centuries is wrought out on the anvil of contending ideas, make strong the arms of our faith that we may wield the hammer of Thy truth as workers together with Thee.

May those here called to administer the affairs of this land of our love and hope, remembering whose servants they are, make daily choice of spiritual integrity amid the corruption that is in the world through the lust of selfish power that, being unafraid, they may contend steadfastly for the right as Thou dost give them to see the right.

In our private lives and in our public service, help us this and every day to live more nearly as we pray.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1961

Eternal God, Father of our spirits, whose power is unsearchable, in whose will alone is our peace, amid the earthquake, wind, and fire of this violent world, we wait at the day's beginning for Thy still small voice. Give us sensitive ears to listen, teachable minds to learn, and humble hearts to obey.

Here, today, in this Chamber of national deliberation, let some revelation of Thy light fall on our darkness, some guidance from Thy wisdom save us in our bewilderment from false choices.

For our Nation's welfare, grateful for its high traditions, anxious for its present state as the leader in freedom's cause in all the earth, we come with fervent prayer for our national leaders that by their wise decisions this Republic may contribute worthily to mankind's abiding peace.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1961

GOD OF OUR FATHERS AND OUR GOD, grant that those who here minister in this temple of governance may meet this day's duties and responsibilities with the constant remembrance of the great traditions wherein they stand and of the shining cloud of witnesses which at all times surrounds them.

May a sense of the Eternal colour all the thoughts and endeavours of those who serve here on this high hill of the national life.

May a realization of Thy presence guide all our decisions and permeate our wills' most inward citadel.

Be Thou with us in our silence and in our speech; in our haste and in our leisure; in companionship and in solitude; in the freshness of the morning and in the weariness of the evening, crowning all with Thy "well done" as faithful servants. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1961

FATHER OF MANKIND, to whom all souls are dear, at this alter of Thy restoring grace we bow knowing that in Thy revealing light alone can the bewildering confusions that perplex us be seen in their true perspective.

We come this day grateful for the safe return of the trusted President of this body from a vital sector of the farflung battleline of freedom, as gazing upon the walls and guns of tyranny the gavel in his hand here became the hammer of justice and truth there, where in the name of this free land he sounded forth a trumpet that shall never know retreat.

We rejoice that his words of assurance have set men on their feet as to those who have not Thee in awe and who

would coerce the bodies and minds of men he has declared, as did Thy prophet in the long ago:

> "Your covenant with death shall be annulled,
> Your agreement with hell shall not stand,
> Your refuge of lies shall be swept away—
> The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

We lift our prayer in the name of that Holy One who warned those who degraded human dignity: "I came not to bring peace but a sword." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1961

Our Father, God, in this still moment when all earth's strident noises are hushed and our own voices silenced, we would lift our little lives so that they may touch Thine that we may toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal.

With all mankind standing in the valley of decision, with humanity facing the blessing or the curse, make us crusaders of a golden tomorrow for Thy children under all skies when the shared plenty of the good earth shall wash the aching misery of the earth's blighting slums into watered gardens of life abundant. We ask it in the hallowed name of Him for whose kingdom's coming we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1961

God of all wisdom, away from the confusion of tongues, at the week's beginning, we turn to this quiet pavilion of prayer where the bewildering voices of the busy world, and the clamor of wordy arguments, are hushed.

When the reality behind all shadows—Thy presence in all things and behind all things—captures our awareness, then

our arrogance is rebuked, our pride is mocked, and we confess that our knowledge is only partial and our judgment fallible.

May all narrow barriers be burned away that shut us out from fellowship and understanding with any of Thy other children. And may the decisions made here in this forum of the Republic conform to Thy will, as to those who look and listen for Thy guidance are revealed the things which belong to our peace and to the peace of the whole world.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, in the midst of the tasks committed to our hands for this day, we pray—

> For strength to leave unsaid the bitter word,
> The power to say the kind one and forgive
> All that is said or done by thoughtless men,
> The courage to go on, and try again,
> When hopes have failed—The patience, Lord, to wait
> And the wisdom to see clearly and to cling
> To simple truths, though fame and glory dim,
> The faith to make a dream a living thing,
> A gentleness of soul, a spirit meek,
> A nobler life—These are the things we seek.

So that, in our private dealing, and in the ministry of public affairs, we fail not man nor Thee. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1961

OUR FATHER, AUTHOR OF LIBERTY, we come with a fervent prayer that there may be found in those who are here called to serve the Republic, the spiritual values which alone can bring order out of chaos and peace out of strife. May the

shield of our own national integrity be lifted in a time when the world's hopes depend on character.

When the ruling passion of this land of the free to share, to build, and to lift is misunderstood and maligned and made to appear evil by those who imagine a vain thing, still keep our hearts free from malice, our good will extended to all men who cherish brotherhood, and our shining goal for a fairer world beckoning ahead undimmed.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1961

O THOU WHO ART FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, each new day's dawning brings to us the wondrous thought that we are with Thee. The long travail of the ages makes clear, as Thy word declares, that where there is no vision the people perish, as shining ideals go down before the brute facts of force and chaos.

In a world where for others their very country is turned into a prison and the lash of the taskmaster's whip is upon them, we are grateful—

> For the priceless gift of freedom,
> For the home, the church, the school;
> For the open door to manhood
> In a land the people rule.

Give us to realize that Thou art our challenge as well as our shelter and our refuge, and that in the crises of these days Thy voice to us is calling in all the want and woe, in all the hunger and misery of our fellows under all skies.

We pray in the name of the Elder Brother of us all. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, we come beseeching Thee for the undergirding of Thy might for those who here have been trusted with the national welfare. Grant them the grace of unruffled patience in the face of opposition to our Nation's designs for world betterment. May we keep the torch of hope ablaze for the distressed and disinherited across all the frontiers of want and woe.

We ask not for appreciation but only for the satisfaction of being faithful stewards of privilege in all our relationships with others. Thus may we be loyal to the royal in ourselves and hasten the glad day when Thy kingdom may come and Thy will be done in all the earth.

We ask it in the Name which is above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1961

OUR FATHERS' GOD, eternal, sure, and still omnipotent, when the world seems falling to pieces around us, and so many fair hopes are being dashed to the ground, help us in the midst of the whelming flood to stay our minds on Thee and in the strength of the everlasting values that nothing can destroy.

Through all the mystery of life, Thy strong arm alone can lead us to its mastery. Forgive us the distrust of ourselves, of life, and of Thee, and the doubts which besiege us, when, if we but had eyes to see, we would know that the heights about us are full of the chariots of God and the horsemen thereof.

As we spend our years as a tale that is told, may it be to the last page a tale of service well done, of tasks faced without flinching, of honor unsullied, and of horizons

stretched out, as daily we fare forth toward journey's end when our work is done. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1961

O Lord God, who knowest the burdens we bear and the temptations which beset us, grant us the royalty of inward happiness and the composure which comes from living near to Thee. Daily renew in us a sense of joy and let the love that casteth out fear dwell in our hearts that we may carry about the infection of a good courage and may meet all life's ills and disappointments with gallant, highhearted happiness, giving Thee thanks always for all things.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom Thy servants here to whom has been entrusted the responsibility of government. As with righteous wrath we behold the vile treacheries which today foul the earth, give us that personal honor and integrity which shall make us fit to be the defenders of those high things which make life worth while.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1961

O Thou who art the light of man's mind, with eyes of wonder we have greeted again the eternal miracle of a new day; as dawn has conquered the darkness, so rise, we pray Thee, with morning light upon our souls.

Even through the terror and tumult of these darkened days may we discern the shining pathway which is leading upward to the City of God as obediently and patiently we follow the kindly light.

Pressed by the practical problems which crowd our hours and cry for solution, we would keep ever clear in our vision

and faith the eternal things that cannot be shaken amid the tempests of the temporal.

Giving of our best ability to the people's good, may we rise above life's bitterness by an unshakeable belief in the shining splendor of humanity.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1961

O THOU GOD OF LIFE AND LIGHT, we pray that Thou wilt enable, with the strength of Thy might, those who in these fear-haunted times are here entrusted with the stewardship of the Nation's life.

In all their words and actions in this Chamber help them to remember that we are a part of the past, of the present, and of the future.

It is our honor to belong to all those who in the yesterdays condemned oppression and fought the good fight for freedom. In the present we feel our kinship with those who, across all frontiers and borders, and despising all shackles of the mind, however imposed, strive to enthrone the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God.

As by that faith we live, may those who here speak for America sow the seeds of a golden harvest for all mankind in a peaceful world that beckons.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1961

FATHER OF ALL MEN, standing in the midst of swift social currents and of evil forces whose hideous cruelty stabs our anguished hearts, we confess that the world in which our lot

is cast is too much for us. Because there is no solution of the world's ills, save as it springs from Thy sovereignty and from the hearts of men, we pray for ourselves—create within us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us.

Give us to see that the pride of nations, their covetousness, their greed, their assaults against the rights of others, are the very evils that seek to corrode our own souls:

Breathe on us breath of God,
Fill us with life anew,
That we may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1961

THOU GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, whose clearest and most searching words are heard in the silences of the soul, give we beseech Thee, to Thy servants who here wrestle with the Nation's problems, quiet hearts and open minds that welcome all truths from whatever direction it may come. May the fret and fever of their spirits not add to the confusion of a bewildered age instead of helping and healing.

Lift our eyes, we pray Thee, above the foggy valley of narrow loyalties and partisan interests to vaster vistas where small things are seen as small, and great things as great. Remove far from us even unrecognized bigotries and prejudices based on a lack of understanding.

In the crises of our time join us with those who across the waste and wilderness of human hate and need, preparing the way of the Lord, throw up a highway for our God. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, in the morning hour at this wayside altar of prayer, may the consciouness of Thy overshadowing presence grip our spirits with the possibilities which rise for each of us in every new dawn, wait for us upon the threshold of each day, which challenge us in every duty, and which open for us on golden hinges every door of opportunity.

In all the hurried pace we go, help us this day not to forget in our contacts with others the things we ought to remember, especially in the case of those whose skies take light and color from what we give or withhold, comrades whose gaiety our frown may quench, children whose gleam or gloom so largely reflects our tempers, the aged whose dreams are all back of them and who are dependent upon our courtesy and consideration.

Before turning now to waiting tasks we pause for Thy benediction. We are grateful for a heritage worth living for and dying for, and for a deathless cause that no weapon that has been formed can ever defeat.

In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, who looketh not upon outward things, but upon the heart, out of which are the issues of life, in this age of mechanical wonders, of automatic devices, of clever gadgets, save us from regarding the boastful display of these symbols of physical power as expressing the chief achievements of the Nation—ours or any other.

Let us rather set up before a watching world an exhibition of honor untarnished, of promises sacredly kept, of human dignity defended, of freedom unfettered, and of spiritual

verities lifted above a self-centered materialism devoted to surpassing others in a race for domination.

To all the world so fearful and agitated may this land of hope and glory ever display the splendor of a peace which comes of purity and of a strength to simple justice due. So runs our royal dream of our America. God of our fathers, make it true. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1961

ALMIGHTY GOD, who bids the light of the day to shine out of the darkness when morning gilds the skies, we would still our hearts for this hallowed moment as we bow for the benediction of Thy loving kindness, fresh every morning; for—

> New mercies each returning day
> Hover around us while we pray.

Grant us this day to live on the altitudes of our aspirations. As servants of Thine, and of the peoples of this shattered earth, stricken, groping, starving, reaching out for more abundant life, as there rests upon the shoulders of these, Thy servants, the white mantle of the Nation's honor unsullied, save them from false choices and guide their hands and minds to heal and feed and build and bless.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1961

O LORD, THOU LOVER OF MANKIND, in whose hand are the final issues of life: in a day when loud voices of evil threaten to overwhelm all that gives dignity to the individual, we steel ourselves in the assurance that although

the wrong seems oft so strong, Thou art the ruler yet. In that faith we dedicate all we think and speak and do this new day.

Thou hast given us our yesterdays and their record is in Thy book of remembrance. Our memories of temptations resisted and victories won are secure. Our tomorrows are within Thy loving care as the future lies before us. Today is ours. Help us to command it, to seize it, to mold it to Thy purposes, and, being true to our best selves, to serve the Nation and this ailing world in the spirit of that Holy One in whose name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1961

Almighty God, Thou art the true home of our souls, whence we sprang, to whom we belong, and in whose love and fellowship we may daily renew our strength.

At the beginning of another week, comfort us, we beseech Thee, with a vivid awareness of the spiritual verities by which we are surrounded and undergirded that we may be stripped of pride and made humble and penitent.

In a world full of the clamor of the violent, the boasting of the arrogant, and the agony of tortured peoples, make us valiant for Thy truth in a day when the hearts of many turn to water.

As undefeated souls may we sustain the shocks of these volcanic days, master their handicaps, turn their threats into challenges, and at last make even the wrath of men to serve Thee.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1961

OUR FATHER, GOD, with soiled faces and hands unclean with the dust of earthly toil, in this moment of communion with the unseen and the eternal, we would come to the still waters of Thy restoring grace.

As those set aside to prescribe for the ills of an ailing social order, we pray that Thou wilt first cleanse our own souls from moral pollution and that Thou wilt dispel our mental darkness.

In a world where the worst wars constantly against the best, open our eyes to the invisible allies which fight by the side of those who keep step with the drumbeat of Thy will—invincible forces which at last will bend and break the spears of evil.

When the sadness of the world creeps into our own eyes, and we are plagued with our own inadequacies in these baffling times, stand out in splendor before us like the light, like love all lovely, like the morning which slays the shadows.

We ask it in the name of that One whose life is the light of the world. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1961

O THOU WHOSE THRONE IS JUSTICE AND TRUTH. Frail creatures of dust, yet stamped with Thine image, serving out our brief stay on the world's vast stage, we would set our little lives in the light of Thine eternity. In that perspective we fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless and to gird us with a strength that is not our own.

As those to whom has been committed the stewardship of the fair and firm fabric of the Nation's life, grant those who here serve the people of the Republic in these dread

days of decision a saving experience of inner quiet and serenity.

Knowing that all truth is Thine, and that it is only truth that makes men free, and that fetters of the mind and spirit and body as they desecrate human dignity are an offense to Thee, the Creator, strengthen our will, we beseech Thee, that we may not be browbeaten by threatening evil, or surrender to craven fear, but having done all for a just peace, to stand where honor and duty draw the line from which there can be no retreat without our being recreant to our solemn trust for freedom's cause.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1961

Our Father, God, in this hour of the world's deep distress day by day we turn to Thee, mindful of our insufficiency. We are but broken reeds, lashed by wild winds that mock our boasting pride uttered in days of calm. Thine alone, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory.

In this testing decade of human destiny, deepen in us the sense of surpassing opportunity and of glorious mission to do our full part in averting a global catastrophe as our willful world is given this one last chance.

Hear our prayer: America, America, God mend thine every flaw.

Grant that our hearts may be shrines of prayer, and our free Nation a bulwark for the oppressed, a flaming beacon of hope whose beams shall battle the darkness in all the world. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1961

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE, among Thy manifold gifts to us we rejoice in the sacrament of human friendship and in those who love us and trust us.

Open our eyes, we pray, to simple beauty all around us lest we miss the splendor that is in the commonplace. Open our hearts to the virtues and nobility that even comrades by our side often hide from us, because, alas, we do not try enough to understand them.

Strengthen and refresh us that we may seek Thee eagerly, find Thee surely, and serve Thee faithfully. Keep us at tasks too hard for us that constantly we may be driven to Thee for strength. Set our eyes on far-off goals many of which cannot be reached in our day. Even amid the contentions and confusions of these days keep steady our feet by the assurance that Thou, our God, hast the whole world in Thy hands and that even the gates of hell cannot revoke Thy decree, "Behold I make all things new."

We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1961

GOD OF THE AGES, whose help we seek for today's duties, it undergirds us with confidence to know that to every scene life brings, our strength depends, not just on our frail hold of Thee, but on Thy mighty grasp of us, for Thou seekest us with patient, haunting pursuit.

Confront us, we pray, with the solemn reality that in the last resort, everything depends on the faith that our own life, all its difficulties and problems of our own life, its self-denials, its triumphs and failures, all have a place

in the final mosaic of Thy great plan and that even in the experiences that disturb us most, love almighty is in control and there is a hand that guides.

In that sure confidence send us forth into the uncertain days ahead with the triumphant assurance the Lord is our light and our salvation; though an host encamp against us our hearts shall not fear; though war should rise against us even then will we be confident. Guide us, O Thou great Jehovah, that we may be the dedicated messengers of peace.

Grant us peace with freedom and justice in our time, O Lord.

We bring our prayer in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1961

Father of our spirits, Thou hast ordained that not in cushioned seats of safety first but in danger, in self-denial and stern conflict, shall we find our strength and our triumph.

Thou hast called Thy servants here who represent the choices and will of a free people to be servants of the Nation in a tense and tortured time, when the earth is plowed with violence, when brave freedom fighters have been met and temporarily subdued by the bayonets and walls of tyrants, and when wars and rumors of war vex the world.

As there is faced here the tangled relationships which tie us to a world which is now a neighborhood, motivated by a love and sympathy that seeketh not its own, may the meditations of our hearts, the convictions of our minds, and the words of our lips, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

We especially plead for Thy guidance in this grim hour when the fluttering flags of the nations, and of the United Nations mournfully at half-mast, publish the grief of all lovers of a just peace, as at the forum of the nations where critical questions press for solution there is a vacant place against the sky.

We gratefully acknowledge that every free man on earth is indebted to Thy servant, Dag Hammarskjold, every man who yearns to be free, and every slave in a slave nation whose deeper longings he represented. With a sense of bitter loss, just as he seemed so desperately needed, of one who leads us no more, we wistfully say, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, in whose being is all life's meaning and in whose will alone is our peace: We beseech Thee, as the Congress convenes, to give every Member of both bodies, and to all who serve in any capacity in this shrine of each patriot's devotion, a vision splendid of the rich heritage with which the Republic stands in this testing day before the whole world.

We lift our Te Deum that in spite of our denials and betrayals the glory is still there, enlightening the earth, and that we are called to let its radiance shine through us. We did not create it. It was bequeathed to us by God-fearing men and women whose spirits are in the cloud of witnesses surrounding us this hour, as there are faced by Thy servants

in this Chamber problems as vexing as any the elected representatives of the Nation have ever been called upon to solve.

Give us to realize that the defense of our faith in Thee, which is the victory that overcometh the world, and in the supremacy of spiritual verities, depends at last, not on any economic, military, scientific, or educational resource, but upon a passion, which burns like fire in our bones, to translate our religious faith into the acts of our daily life, at home and in our global stewardship. Increase our dedication to that holy calling, as we march to the drumbeat of Thy truth. We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1962

Eternal Spirit, in this hallowed moment we humbly bow with the solemn realization that no changes in sessions or in debates and decisions can alter the fact of facts that until we find Thee and art found of Thee, we begin at no beginning and come to no ending.

As this day in a scene upon which the eyes of the world, some hopeful, some hostile, are riveted with intensity of interest, the chosen leader of the Republic pictures to the assembled representatives of the people the state of the Union, help the legislators and the millions who will listen on the speaking air to examine each his own dedication or lack of it—to the strength of that Union in these days of its greatest test and peril.

Give us to know that each of us individually is a part of America, and that to the extent that in all our relationships we practice our democratic faith, we are a vital factor in the state of the Union. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, who art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and the kindly light that leads us on through the encircling gloom: Help us who grope in the darkness of earth's dim ways to ever remember that even the shadows themselves are born of light. As Thy servants in this chamber face the tasks of another week, lift upon them the light of Thy countenance; may they be saved from despair by the hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way.

Even while we are spurred to fight with all our might against the present evil which threatens freemen everywhere, may we also be lured by the vision splendid of a coming good. To this end deliver us, we pray, from the political policies which are symptoms of spiritual disease. Give us the needed courage and strength for the arduous and vast task of rebuilding the waste places of the earth, if at last life for all men under all skies is to be made full and free.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1962

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, in our common faith in Thee that binds us all together and makes us one in the source of our strength to do and to endure, in all the commotion and confusion of the baffling present with its imperative demands, we would turn aside for this beginning moment to lift the fret and fever of our daily lives into the quietness of Thy presence.

As from this Chamber of legislation the lines go out to the homes of the Nation where the final strength of the Republic and its future is stored and nurtured, we beseech Thee, O God, that it may please Thee to purify and exalt

the domestic life of the people, to deepen the sense of the worth and sacredness of home, so that the families of our land may be schools of noble discipline and the nurseries of strong character and of true religion.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1962

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we are conscious that we spend our years as a tale that is told, and told quickly.

Yesterday the thought of those chosen to sit in this Chamber was "in memoriam," as the dedicated public service of one whose work is done here was passed in grateful review in a panorama of vanished yesterdays.

As gaps appear in the ranks of patriotism, no matter how pure and undefiled, even in the sadness of farewell may those who remain hear Thy voice calling to march forward, to work while it is called day, to fill sunny hours with labor, knowing that the night cometh when no man can work.

In these tense days, whose decisions are molding the far future, make our national leaders calm and serene because they are anchored in Thy truth, though ringed about with lies. May the courage of the prophets be in their souls.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, again in Thy great mercy the white scroll of a new page unfolds before us. We pray that this day our record may be kept unstained by any word or act unworthy of our best.

Once more a seat in this Chamber to which nevermore will return the one who has so faithfully occupied it reminds us with a new urgency of how short and uncertain is our stewardship of the Nation's weal. We thank Thee for public servants of the character and caliber of Andrew Schoeppel, who has served his State and his Nation with selfless dedication and unsullied integrity. We ask for the consolation of Thy sustaining strength upon the dear companion of the years, as the one is taken and the other left.

Leaving an enduring record of public devotion and the benediction of a noble character, now that for our colleague the busy world is hushed, vouchsafe to him, O Lord, light and peace and joy in the life everlasting. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1962

O Thou Father of us all, whose mercy is like the wideness of the sea, Thou art never far from any one of us; but, alas, often in our thoughts we are very far from Thee.

Take Thou the dimness of our souls away. May we be of the company of whom it can be said: "They looked unto Him and were radiant and their faces were not ashamed."

It is in Thy light that we become honest with ourselves. Before the bar of our conscience may we esteem faithfulness above the praise of our fellows.

Save us from the shirked responsibility, the easy falsehood, and the unfair retort. Arm us with the power to resist entrenched error, vested selfishness, and the attempt to smear others by unreasoning prejudice.

Across the debris of ancient wrongs may our glad eyes see the coming of the glory, as selfish exploitation in all the earth makes way for brotherhood and for man.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1962

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, as with hands filled with the perplexing tasks of the present we turn to Thee for strength, may our eyes not be oblivious to the beauty that blooms by the side of today's pathway—for the glory of the way, as well as its obligations, is Thy gift.

And now as our earth spins in space and another day is before us, so soon to be behind us forever, we know that only this once can we seize the day for which now we crave Thy blessing and approval.

May we live it in the light of the yesterdays into whose labors we have entered, as the past warns us by its errors, informs us by its achievements, and inspires us by its sacrifices.

In our stewardship of today, and of the days to be that may be granted, we are thankful for the friends whose faith calls out the hidden best that is in us, for children who call us by the holiest name men and women may ever know, and for the challenge to our utmost, in which we rejoice as strong men preparing to run a race.

Thus, before our little day ebbs out and our work is done, with patience and courage may we serve the present age our calling to fulfill.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1962

OUR FATHER, walking as Thy children along the path of duty in this new chance for service that dawn has brought us, we would feel and heed the pressure of Thy life upon ours; we would listen for Thy voice and hearing make Thy will our own with the assurance that in all our choices we do the things that please Thee.

In Thee is food for all our hunger, light for all our darkness, strength for all our tasks, and love which never faileth to purge the selfishness which spoils life's music.

Thou knowest that this is our faith. Make it, we pray, our living experience. Help us to harness our creed to our private and public practice. This day in all our human contacts make us eager to be fair and kind; and when evening comes, may we have the reward of Thy favor and the peace that passeth understanding. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1962

God of all mercy, bowing at this noontide altar of Thy grace, may we be vividly conscious that we need not turn back to bygone centuries to hear Thy voice, as if Thou dost no longer speak to men.

Above the noise of crashing systems, yea, in and through the change and confusion of our day, give us to see that the day of judgment has come and that Thou art searching out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat. Through the want and woe of Thy world and of Thy children, our brothers, Thy voice to us is sounding.

Join us to those who labor to the utmost to bring sense and system to this disordered globe, and grant that our eyes may yet look upon a world that has found a pathway leading to the plains of universal peace where all men's good shall be each man's rule, through all the circle of the golden years.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1962

God of all mercy, whose goodness faileth never: With all our pressing needs, the one towering high above all others is our need of Thee—for having Thee we have all. Without

Thee we are forsaken orphans in a heartless universe of blind force. So at the beginning of another week of responsibility we bring our hearts and our homes to the healing of Thy presence.

It is never a long journey to Thee, for Thou art closer than breathing, nearer than hands or feet.

For this day we would fare forward cheered by the assurance that as our day, so shall our strength be.

For all the perplexities that may comfort us, give us grace sufficient; for all the questions which call for decision, give us wisdom beyond our limitations; and for all the temptations which may lie in ambush to trap us, give us overcoming power. Enable us so to live as not to spoil a single day or grieve a single heart by deeds that might never be undone or words that can never be recalled.

We ask it in the name of the One whose spotless record shames us all. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1962

ETERNAL AND EVER-LOVING FATHER, in this mad and sad world, with the forces of envy and hatred rending in twain Thy human family, we look away from all the contentions of earth, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of Thee, our God, and that we cannot drift beyond the circle of Thy care. It is in that love that a sparrow's fall is noted. It is in that law that the stars keep their courses. With that certainty as our shield, we confront the day with confidence and face the future unafraid.

Make us worthy of that love divine, which transfigures all it touches. May we not fall short of the high dignity with which Thou hast endowed us.

Protect our free land from the dire evils threatened by others who blaspheme Thy law. Deliver us also from the

sinful tendencies of our own wayward natures which would lure us from the path of Thy commandments.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1962

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, facing tasks that tower above our power to achieve, with a sense of our utter inadequacy when left to our own devices, we bow for the strengthening benediction of our morning prayer.

In all the tangled tragedy of our ailing world we ask for power to keep our goals clear, our hearts pure, and our spirits courageous.

May we hear Thy call in the thunder of these tumultuous times. When the hammers of Thy purpose are beating out new shapes on the anvil of the world, may this dear land of ours be fashioned into an instrument through which Thy will may be done on the earth in such desperate need of Thy guidance.

In the spirit of the Master we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1962

GOD OF ALL GRACE, trusting only in Thy mercy would we seek Thy presence. Keep us, we beseech Thee, from the folly of attempting to deceive Thee, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known. As those whose powers are dedicated to the Nation's welfare, make Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs faithful to each challenging duty, loyal to every high claim, responsive to the human needs of this suffering earth.

In a confused day, keep our minds clear, fair, and uncluttered by partisan prejudice. In a darkened day, when

so many lights have gone out, give us the sight and the insight of the pure in heart, that we may see God and the godlike everywhere as we toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1962

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, and in the earth, and in the hearts of men, hallowed be Thy name. In this opening moment of a new week's council concerning the future of the Nation and of the world, may those here chosen to speak for the Republic, with such responsibilities committed to their hands, draw near unto Thee in humility and sincerity. Reveal unto them, we pray, the means Thou wouldst have them use to establish justice and peace among men in all the earth.

May those who here serve the people be wise interpreters of the signs of the times and brave spokesmen of Thy will and of Thy truth which sets men free from ancient wrongs. Out of the chaos of our time, may there come the kingdom of which Thy prophets have dreamed in every age.

Enable each of us in the places where we stand to live greatly in a world so grave, as we are granted light enough for the next step.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1962

OUR FATHER, strong to save, amid the shifting shadows of the temporal, take Thou the dimness of our souls away, so that with clear and clean eyes we may discern the shining truth of the eternal.

Forgive us that in the heat of partisanship so often we have forgotten that above our selfish ambitions and our hollow pride lie unchangeable verities like granite peaks piercing the sky.

Facing days which tax all their resources, give to Thy servants here in the stewardship of public affairs the untroubled calm which illuminates faith in the final triumph of every true idea let loose in the world, against which the gates of hell cannot prevail.

In a world which is a battlefield where truth and falsehood are locked in mortal combat, even as we face unnumbered foes endeavoring to destroy the things which to us are dearer than life, bar our own hearts to all cynicism and hatred.

As we fight the good fight with all our might, may our strength be as the strength of 10 because our hearts are pure.

We ask it in the name of the Holy One who declared, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1962

O Thou God of all worlds—

> Lord of all being throned afar,
> Thy glory flames from sun and star;
> Center and soul of every sphere,
> Yet to each loving heart how near.

Void of Thee, all is vanity, and life itself barren, joyless, robbed of its wonder, its dignity, and its beauty.

Without Thee even our wistful hopes for humanity are like winter's withered leaves, once verdant and bright—now crumpled ruins blown upon a bitter wind.

To these servants of this free land whose questing spirits seek the paths of a just peace through all the tangle and

tragedy of these baffling days, may there come light out of darkness, concord out of discord, strength out of struggle, forgiveness out of guilt, and faith out of fear.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1962

LORD OF ALL LIFE, HERE AND BEYOND, Thou art the God of this terrestrial ball we tread, and Thou art the God of the farthest star in the vastness of space which is beyond our imagination and comprehension.

If we take the wings of the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of the earth or sea, behold Thou art there; and if Thy earth children in expanding their dominion shall at last stand on some other whirling world, still man will find Thee there, for the hallowed words which our childhood lips were taught to utter—"Our Father"—mirror the final truth of all Thy creation. It is Thine immutable law which propels our tiny ships now venturing forth on the ocean of immensity.

Give us to see that the breathtaking vistas of the universe rebuke Thy earth children's separation into hostile camps on this third-rate planet of a third-rate sun.

Make us big enough and united enough to do our part in making the divided wilderness of this earth blossom as the rose in the garden of Thine infinite love. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1962

O, THOU ETERNAL SPIRIT, whose holy purposes are beyond defeat, at the beginning of another week we come seeking Thy righteous will and craving Thine enabling strength to do it.

Thou knowest that constantly we pray "Thy kingdom come"; but we confess that often the flaming hope of that kingdom of understanding love has grown dim, as hatred and selfishness and man's inhumanity to man have desecrated the earth which could be so fair. But in spite of temporary rebuffs, give us to see that wherever hatred gives way to love, wherever prejudice is changed to good will, wherever pain is soothed and ignorance banished, there Thy banners go and Thy truth is marching on.

So, with all our inadequacy, we pause this quiet moment in the sacrament of prayer, that amid all the din of conflict we may keep step with the distant drumbeat of Thy sure victory.

We ask it in the name of the One who for the ages has changed a cross of defeat into a crown of triumph, and whose kingdom has no frontier. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1962

O Thou timeless Lord of life and light, who art the center and soul of every sphere:

Turning aside, for this hallowed moment, from the violence and turbulence of these embittered days, we would hush the words of the wise and the prattle of the foolish.

As Thy presence becomes vivid, our faith is strengthened in the supremacy of ultimate decencies.

In the silence of this Chamber of governance, we would hear the ancient assurance, "Be still and know that I am God."

Come to us, we pray, in the common life that entangles us. Meet us in the thorny questions which confront us amid the tragedies and suspicions that have befallen men and nations.

We ask not that Thou wilt keep us safe in these dangerous times, but that Thou wilt keep us loyal to the starry ideals of this dear land of freedom.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1962

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and nations, endue with Thy wisdom our fallible minds, as the spokesmen of the people here face decisions with the background of fearful forces of nature which, if not harnessed by mutual good will, may destroy us utterly.

We pray for greatness of soul, that the keys of new power may be used to open doors, not of peril, but of plenty for the whole earth.

So distill upon us the dews of quietness and confidence that in simple trust and deeper reverence we may be found steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in Him and for Him and with Him our labor is not in vain.

So send us forth with serenity and calm, to meet an agitated world with an unruffled tranquillity which is strength and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1962

O THOU KINDLY LIGHT, with the encircling gloom about us, lead Thou us on.

We grope forward with uncertain steps in a time tingling with tension and dark with fears.

May the poisoning evils which blight the earth not devastate our inner life, subduing us to its low standards, con-

fusing us by its chaos, or crushing our professed faith under its tragedy.

Help us to face the piercing truth of the question—

"Why build these cities glorious
If man unbuilded goes?
In vain we build the world unless
The builder also grows."

Growing in moral and spiritual stature, give us honesty in dealing with our own besetting sins, humility to confess them, and resolution to overcome them.

Grant us Thy grace to walk circumspectly not as foolish, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1962

FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, as together at the week's end we pause at this shrine of devotion our fathers built, grant us, we pray Thee, the steadying vision of Thine eternal goodness; give us, we beseech Thee, the lowly and humble heart emptied of presumptuous pride which is the only shrine where any altar pleasing to Thee can be raised.

We pray that Thou wilt so direct Thy servants who here serve the Republic that the best which is expected of them, and of which their dedicated faculties are capable, may be brought to bear without fear or favor upon the confused issues of this critical day.

Make our America, through our consecration, more and more the hope of all who suffer and the dread of all who would enslave the human spirit.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1962

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who knowest our necessity, before we ask, and our ignorance, limitations, and fallibility in asking, have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon our infirmity; strengthen us in all noble impulses; and daily increase in us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel, knowledge, and true godliness. Dowered with privileges and with the stewardship of power as no other Nation, may our high estate be to us Thy summons to protect the weak and exploited, that through the potent ministry of this Republic of freemen, all peoples of the earth may be blessed.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, in the heat and burden of days that drain our strength and demand our best, amidst the clamor of busy cares, we seek a quiet cloister of the soul where spirit with spirit may meet.

We seek that elixir of living water which alone can refresh and restore our bodies and spirits, saving us from physical exhaustion, from spiritual impoverishment, from the numbness of routine, from cynicism and bitterness of heart.

Through the sincere expression of differing appraisals in this Chamber of deliberation, may the final wisdom that charts the Nation's course in these perilous days, yet days big with challenge, be higher than our own.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, in a world so embittered by hatred and suspicion, create in us, we pray, the splendor that dawns when hearts are kind.

At this high altar of the Nation's life, may those who sit in the exalted seats of this historic Chamber, scorning all expediency, match these dangerous days with daring deeds, as with cheerful courage, sustained by an unwavering faith, they bear the weight of vast concerns, the sting of criticism, and the drudgery of unapplauded toil.

May those who here, by the will of the people, are servants of the Republic, speak always with due caution and humility, knowing that their words are not just their own, but that they are heard in all the earth.

In these days of destiny, may we merit the shining crown of the divine approbation, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1962

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GLORY, in these days of the earth's awakening, thrilling and throbbing with the loveliness of springtide, we thank Thee for every sacrament of beauty of which our enraptured senses drink as we bend in wonder at the petaled cups held up by bushes aflame with Thee.

As we lift to Thee our gratitude for this dear land of our love and prayer, our thought of her is glad with hope. Under Thee, her way is down no fatal slope, but up to freer sun and air—

> Tried as by furnace fires and yet
> By God's grace only stronger made
> In future tasks before her set
> She shall not lack the oldtime aid.

So runs our loyal dream of her. God of our fathers, make it true, as we rededicate ourselves anew to the preservation of the precious things we hold nearest our hearts, and won for us at so great a cost. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1962

O LORD OUR GOD, who with each new dawn renewest our sight with the fresh gladness of the morning, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth.

In the changing pageant of nature with form and color that thrill the senses, Thou makest Thyself known to us; for beauty is but Thy handwriting.

Through shining lives of men and women that rise in moral splendor far above the sinking sands of self-seeking and expediency, we glimpse the glory of Thy holiness.

Save us from vanity of soul and pettiness of mind which exalt self to the highest pedestal. May our personal dedication to the things that matter most be a contribution to the coming of Thy new day, when in a better order of human society the crooked things shall be made straight and Thy peace, just and healing, shall breathe its benediction upon our warring and weary world.

We pray in Thy holy name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1962

O THOU GOD OF OUR SALVATION, for this still moment we would hush all other sounds save that of the divine knocking and the entreating voice which reaches us through all the stubborn self-willed barriers which we erect: "If any man will open the door, I will come in."

We know that when Thou dost really enter, things which are unlovely and unclean cannot stay to embitter and pollute. So we look upward in our morning prayer that in a continual sense of Thy presence we may be delivered from the fret and fever of today's demands upon us, from the world's discordant noises, and from the praise or blame of men, so that on this day—and every day which may be

granted us—appointed tasks may be met with purity of purpose, without moral compromise or craven fear.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1962

Eternal Spirit, Thou hast written Thy law on the tablets of our hearts. In Thy fellowship alone we find peace for our spirits and power for our tasks. In the brooding silence of this still moment, may open windows of faith flood our gloom with light, that in Thy sunshine's blaze our day may brighter, fairer be.

We come with hearts grateful for freedom's glorious light. Give us to see more and more that that light cannot be hidden under any selfish covering. Give us to realize that to consent, even by silence, to the crucifixion of freedom anywhere is ultimately to nail our own liberty on the same cross, knowing that with what measure we mete it shall be measured to us again.

Use our hands, we beseech Thee, to help build the City of God on the ruined wastes of this sadly divided and disordered world.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1962

God, our Father, in a world filled with sights that sadden and problems that perplex, may our hearts be strengthened by the realization that ours is also a time of splendor, bright with promise as we stand at the portal of a more glorious tomorrow.

Remind us of the better aspects of the civilization out of which we have come, which even now with new vitality is beating back the rampant powers of slavish barbarism.

May the crashing of outworn things that are falling to earth not hide from our eyes the coming of a new era struggling to birth.

If this weary flesh of ours, faced by determined foes, should fear or falter, keep us firm and steadfast, as in the global battle now raging we put on the whole armor of faith and hope and love.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1962

Eternal God, Father of all, who art above all and through all and in all, without whom life has no spiritual source or destiny, but with whom there is power for the present and hope for the future, we seek Thee as our fathers before us have sought Thee in every generation.

When the problems which front us seem insoluble, when the very principles for which brave men have died are betrayed, when the seamless robe of world unity is rent in twain, when even the shining river of our fairest dreams seems to sink into the sands of futility, still may we labor on, serene and confident, knowing that while the weeping of hopes deferred may endure for a night, the joy of Thy sure victory cometh in the morning. In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1962

Father of Light, in whom is no shadow caused by turning: In a world that lieth in darkness, swept by fitful winds of doubt and despair, blighted by suspicion and intrigue, we

would pause in this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that Thy light is not shuttered from our inner lives.

To this forum of democracy Thou hast summoned to serve the few among the many, in a world where millions in awakening nations are halting between two opinions.

In such an hour, join us, we pray, to the great company of unconquered spirits who in other troubled times have stood their ground, preserving the heritage of man's best, and whose flaming faith made their lives as lighted windows amid the encircling gloom.

We ask it in the ever-blessed name of that One who is the Light of the World. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1962

ETERNAL SPIRIT, without whose guidance our wisdom is but folly, we pray that Thy healing balm may restore our jaded spirits.

Keep us this day in serenity and confidence, as our hearts and minds are stayed on Thee. May we guard our words with the seal of understanding charity. Save us from being embittered by ingratitude, pettiness, or meanness and, by appeasement of evil, from turning coward in the day of battle.

We thank Thee for the lessons of the road we have traveled—we are warned by mistakes, encouraged by success, and enriched by experiences of gladness and sadness. Make us worthy of our great heritage. Grant us a kindling sense of national destiny as we face the duties of today and the problems of tomorrow.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1962

OUR FATHERS' GOD, as at another day's beginning we bow at this altar of prayer, we would lift our perspective with a sense of towering, eternal verities and values. We would bring our hearts and hands, soiled with the world's uncleanness, to the holiness that shames our unworthiness, and yet which with patient love forgives our transgressions.

We confess that in this world, so gemmed with beauty, often instead of feasting our eyes on the radiance of life—the glory that shines in a leafy tree, in the tint of the tiniest flower, in the happy face of an innocent child—and instead of rejoicing in it as a sacrament, we have sunk back into the complainings of our narrow, blinded souls.

In the midst of a turbulent social order which still crucifies its prophets, give us ears to hear not just the strident shouts of the noisy streets, but also the still voice heard only in the inner chamber of an uncorrupted conscience.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 14, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, for this quiet moment turning to Thee from all the pomp and show of the world, we pour contempt on all our pride. We come confessing that in the conceit of our self-sufficiency, too often with our burning thirsts we have turned to the broken cisterns of worldly wisdom and of our own sophiscated cleverness. That delusive way has brought us, and our anguished generation, to tragedy and agony.

Our only prayer now, as we come in all our need, is "Nearer my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee." Keep us near to Thee in all our inner motives and in all our deliberations affecting the state and the world.

God be in our head and in our understanding;
God be in our eyes and in our looking;
God be in our mouth and in our speaking;
God be in our mind and in our thinking;
God be at our end—and at our departing.

Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, amid the shifting shadows of the temporal, give us, we pray Thee, clear and clean eyes to discern the shining glory of the eternal. Forgive us that in the heat of partisanship so often we have forgotten that above our personal ambitions and our exaltation of self lie unchangeable verities, like granite peaks which pierce the sky.

Facing today and the days ahead problems which tax all the resources of Thy public servants in this historic Chamber, give them, we beseech Thee, the untroubled calm and confidence which illumines faith in the final triumph of every true idea let loose in the world. And in the broad battlefield where truth and falsehood are locked in mortal combat, bar our own hearts to all cynicism and hatred; and as we fight the good fight, may our strength be as the strength of 10 because our hearts are pure.

We ask it in the ever-blessed name of the Holy One who has declared, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, who revealest Thyself in the true, the honest, the pure, and the lovely, make even our wayward minds Thy audience chamber, and our fickle hearts Thy dwelling place.

In this quiet moment of noontide prayer, we pause to ask Thy guidance as we tread unknown and tangled ways. As we face the duties which throng our days, may we be large in thought, in words, in deeds. Keep us, O God, from pettiness, from self-pity, and prejudice.

Forging forward unafraid, teach us to put into action our better impulses. May we strive to touch and to know the great, common human heart.

And at last may we be counted by grateful generations, who shall inherit a kindlier earth, among the architects of the final parliament of peace and plenty in which every kindred and tongue shall find their rightful place. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1962

Eternal Spirit, who dost bring forth Thy righteousness as the light, and Thy judgments as the noonday: In the presence of the ageless realities which the blasphemies of deluded men cannot touch, we pause in reverence with a deep sense of responsibility, as servants of the public welfare, praying for courage to attempt, patience to endure, and power to achieve.

We would commit our way unto Thee, fretting not ourselves because of evil men who imagine vain things and attempt to bring wicked devices to pass.

Our eyes have seen the glory of a government of law bringing peace and prosperity to many states, and to men of all color, creeds, and races within our own Nation. Give us an unshakable faith that a lawful order can be established for the whole world.

In this faith, steel our hearts to march forward toward a clean world our hands can help to make.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1962

ETERNAL SPIRIT, with bowed heads and reverent hearts we pause in the midst of the day's demanding duties, lifting up our souls to Thee, unto whom all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets are hid. Even in the turmoil of these days in which our lives are enmeshed, we need Thee; every hour we need Thee.

Burdened by many anxieties and responsibilities, tempted to be cynical because of human evil, of faint hope because of human folly, and fretted by small problems, we are in danger of being blown off our course by the social storms that are sweeping the earth. We pray for ourselves, while the tempest still is high, that we may not increase the dissensions and divisions of these times by our own ill temper, but that we may widen every area of good will our influence can reach, as we help to heal the open sores of the earth in this great and challenging day.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1962

ETERNAL GOD, who hast been the hope and strength of all generations, and who hast breathed into Thy earth-children, made in Thy image, the passion to seek Thee and, in seeking, to surely find Thee: To Thy servants here dedicated to the welfare of the state, grant, we beseech Thee, a clearer vision of the unlimited resources which await those who walk in the way of Thy will.

As we stand on these ramparts of freedom, with all mankind—the free and the enslaved—looking and listening to that which is said or done here, let all bitterness and wrath and intemperate speaking be put away, with all malice; and

may we be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving, even as Thou, our Father, forgivest our trespasses against Thy love and against the welfare of Thy other children.

We pray in the dear Redeemer's name.

Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 28, 1962

O Love Divine, at the day's beginning we would lift our souls in communion with Thee, our God, who alone giveth meaning to the brief days and months and years we call life. Draw close to us, we pray, one by one, for we can do nothing worthy together unless singly we are clean and strong.

May this sacred cloister of prayer, with its daily altar where our fathers have paused, be to us a height of clear seeing and of deep believing, bringing a sense of new power, of new serenity, of new hope, for ourselves and our world.

To this end we lay before Thee our problems and our tasks, not that we may leave them here, but that we may see them in the light of Thy grace and power, and then—

> Help us to spread Thy gracious reign
> Till greed and hate shall cease,
> And kindness dwell in human hearts
> And all the earth find peace.

Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1962

O Lord, our God, who hath cast our lot in pleasant places: We praise Thee for our goodly heritage in this land. The hallowed walls of this Chamber speak of those whose gifts of head and heart and hand laid the foundation of this

Nation as they looked to Thee, author of liberty. Help us to hold dear the faith and freedom which they cherished and to prize our heritage above luxury and ease.

Purify our desires and motives by Thy grace; feed our minds with Thy truth, which alone will make us free; and guide our feet into Thy paths of justice and righteousness.

In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1962

LORD OF ALL BEING, again in Thy bountiful mercy we know at this altar of Thy grace with the sure confidence of Thy servant, the Psalmist of old, as he poured out his soul, declaring "At noon, I will pray and call aloud and the Lord shall hear my voice."

Speak to us and through us, that we may be the channels of healing good will for this tangled and tragic time.

O Thou Kindly Light, lead us on through the passing shadows to the effulgence of Thy coming kingdom's sway, when it shall be daylight everywhere.

In the spirit of the Master we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1962

ETERNAL GOD, out of our partial and fragmentary conceptions, knowing that we see as through a glass darkly, we turn to Thee, sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee.

We acknowledge our share in the world's sin, our love of ease, our pride of race and place and possession, our ruthless competition, our failure to take account of the needs of others, at home and half a world away, and to realize that in very truth humanity is one.

This white altar reared at the gates of the morning speaks to us ever of our final reliance on the supreme spiritual forces—faith, hope, and love—which alone abide, and on which our salvation in the end depends.

Harken to the prayers of our hearts when, in our highest moments, we forget ourselves and think of Thee.

In the spirit of Christ we lift our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, from the vain deceits of the uncertain world in which our lot is cast, we turn from the baffling problems which daily besiege us to the white candor of eternal verities.

Entering reverently this sacred, fenced-in area of utter quietness, we would bow in the presence in which we always are, in the calm confidence that Thou dost hold the whole world in Thy hand and all worlds in the firm clasp of a love that never fails. Keeping ourselves in the grasp of that love that will not let us go, may we march with conquering tread in the gathering armies of friendship whose armor is the shield of Thy truth and whose sword is the might of Thy love, against which all the spears of hate cannot ultimately prevail.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1962

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou hast ordained that not in cushioned seats of safety, but in danger and stern conflict shall we find our strength and our triumph.

In our hearts, O Lord, we cherish the golden heritage that has been bequeathed us through the virtue and valor of

those whose records within these legislative halls have helped to make the greatness of our free land.

Inspire us, we pray, so to follow their shining example that we, the children of their faith, may not only hold our inheritance as a precious trust, but by our loyalty, love, and labor may leave it with increased luster to those who, after us, shall inherit the land still bright with freedom's holy light. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, midst all the busy shuttles of legislation, as here in this Chamber is woven the fabric of law and order, nourishing and shielding the life of our democracy, may we not be so enmeshed in the immediate mechanics of our tasks as to lose sight of the total pattern shown only in the mount of vision.

Pausing in this temple of a people's hope and prayer, we would not catalog the sins of others. We come not to exult that we are not as other men; but, rather, confessing our own sins, we would pray for Thy forgiveness and Thy cleansing. We would be the kind of persons to whom Thou canst trust Thy ageless purposes to our willing and eager hands.

We ask only for light enough for the next step, courage enough to face the present duty, and truth enough for today's decisions, as into Thy hands we commit our ways.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1962

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, facing the waiting tasks of another week, we come gratefully mindful that upon the free soil of this continent, which we believe Thou didst keep for

the fulfillment of Thy purposes of good will for all mankind, our fathers with holy toil reared a house of faith hallowed by Thy name.

In the midst of the burdening conflicts of today, when so often the strife for the right is fierce and the warfare long, we thank Thee that through the gates of the morning there come marching hosts—reinforcements with fresh faces and confident hope, a new army in caps and gowns, from the training grounds of our educational arsenals, to take up the trumpets of freedom which must never call retreat.

We pray that these new battalions from our college halls may feel keenly their kinship with those who knelt around the cradle of our liberty, and realize with deep solemnity that the diplomas in their hands are valid only as they maintain in their hearts the faith that science walks with humble feet to seek the God that faith hath found.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1962

O THOU WHO ART FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, give us, we pray, as we come, an elevated vision of the long years, with the constant realization that a lifetime here is but a second in the eternal plan of the God of the ages.

So may we toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal. Undiscouraged and undismayed by the imperfections of mankind, barely emerging from the nursery of his final destiny, teach us Thy patience as we labor on in the hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way.

Solemnize us with the consciousness that beyond the appraisals of men regarding what is said and done here, there falls upon the record of Thy servants who here serve the Republic, the searching light of Thy judgments.

We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1962

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, WHOSE LOVE DIVINE HATH LED US IN THE PAST: Be Thou still our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay. We lift this day our jubilate for the starry flag which in all the world is the sacred emblem of this Nation under God. As we pledge anew allegiance to all that its flowing folds symbolize, make us solemnly conscious that—

"There's not a thread of it,
No, nor a shred of it
In all the spread of it,
From foot to head,
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it red."

Holding aloft the flag which is freedom's best hope to defeat slavish tyranny, send us forth, we pray Thee, not just to cheer for it, but to live for it; to be willing gladly to die for it; that government of, by, and for the people may not perish from the earth.

God bless our America in these tempestuous days, as under that banner she mobilizes her might to defend freedom and to oppose thralldom in all the world. And, God, our Father, make us worthy of America at its best. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1962

ETERNAL GOD, FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, who rulest all things in wisdom and righteousness, our wills are ours to make them Thine. Give us to understand the vanity of so many of

the things we hold closest to our eyes in the present, often hiding from us the glory of the eternal.

In all the tangle of human relationships give us the fairness to be as hard and stern with ourselves as we are critical of other people. Save us from missing the highest goals by self-pity or self-indulgence.

In a day of confusion and evasion let our thinking be keen and clear, our speech frank and open, our actions courageous and decisive. May the glaring surface lights in the streets not blur for our eyes the shining principles above them that are steady as the stars.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1962

O Thou great companion of our pilgrim way, across all the toiling hours of this day, keep our hearts with Thee, as once more in this Chamber of governance, those who here speak and act for the Nation, face vexing national and global problems which tax them to the utmost to solve.

While they heed the judgments of those who share with them the responsibilities of statecraft, enable them by Thy sustaining grace to test all things by their own conscience and by the teachings and spirit of the one who alone is our Master.

Calm our anxieties; strengthen our every weakness; save us from paralyzing fear and embittered cynicism; and in these times that try men's souls, make us worthy of these demanding days, that cry aloud for wisdom and character.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1962

ALMIGHTY GOD, still omnipotent when the world seems falling to pieces all around us, help us in the midst of the whelming flood to stay our minds in the strength of the everlasting values which nothing can destroy.

Amid all the distraction of the complicated modern life in which our lot is cast, keep our hearts childlike and trustful, free from corroding pessimism, so that the gates of the realm of wonder, closed to the merely clever and conceited, may be opened unto us as we turn to Thee, our God, in the simplicity as it is in Christ, our Lord. In His spirit and in His passion for others, strengthen us to dedicate all we have and are to help heal the open sores of the stricken earth.

In His name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1962

O GOD, WHO ART THE HOPE OF ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: By tasks too difficult for us, we are driven unto Thee for strength to endure and wisdom to interpret rightly the signs of these testing times.

Grant unto us the greatness of spirit which will match the vast patterns of this creative day. Establish Thou our hearts in the constancy that nothing can shake, as in growing unity with other freedom-loving nations, we battle, not in enmity against men, but against the evil which degrades and enslaves them.

Beyond the strategy of our material weapons, may we see clearly the depth and scope of this historic drama of the centuries, and may that understanding and that vision turn its colossal costs into final glory for all mankind.

We ask it in the name whose is the power and the kingdom. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1962

O THOU MASTER OF ALL GOOD WORKMEN, who dost accomplish Thy purposes on the earth through Thy servants who make Thy will their own: For all such who from their labors rest, who Thy name before the world confessed—Hallelujah.

Once more in this Chamber, in all the strife of tongues, a voice is hushed. Again, as a session here is called to order, there sounds in our ears, out of the silence, the solemn reminder: "In the midst of life, we are in death."

We pause with a sense of personal grief and with the poignant consciousness that a voice which rang out so passionately within these walls but a few hours ago is silent now, as suddenly an honored Member of this body has laid down his burdens of public service, with his stewardship of world responsibility well performed. Gazing at the empty seat of our friend and colleague, Francis Case, we think with admiration of his ethical integrity as his strict and sensitive conscience, molded in the dedication of church parsonages, was never betrayed or even lured by the sirens of expediency.

And now, as we pray for Thy sustaining grace upon those who were nearest and dearest to our brother who answers no longer to his name here, may they and we be comforted and inspired by the record he has left, that—

E'en as he trod that day to God,
So walked he from his birth:
In simpleness and gentleness
And honor and clean mirth.

In the name of the risen Redeemer, who declares, "Because I live, ye, too, shall live." Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, as for this quiet moment we look away from our mundane tasks to Thee, strip us of our illusions, create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

In our hearts as we come is the greatful remembrance that Thy patience outlasts all our dullness of apprehension and all our stupid choices. In spite of the worst things in us, which we despise, Thou knowest that in our highest hours our deepest desire is to be true servants of Thy will in these troublous times, giving our best ability to the welfare of Thy children everywhere. May we rise above all bitterness by an unshakable belief in the shining splendor of humanity.

Gird us to stand in an evil day with principles never compromised and with integrity never sullied.

We ask it in the name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1962

GOD OF ALL MERCIES, who didst guide our fathers when they laid the foundations of this Republic as they called on Thee to save, Thou hast entrusted to our hands a sacred heritage crimsoned by sacrifice and strengthened by chastening trials.

We look upward in our morning prayer that in a continual sense of Thy presence we may be delivered from the fret and fever of today's demands, from the world's discordant noises, and from the vain imaginations of our own hearts.

In these high hours of national decision, freighted with destiny, grant that those who here speak for the Nation may be so true to their high calling, as servants of the common good, that radiant joy may transfigure duty, that on this and

every day which may be granted us, appointed tasks may be met with purity of purpose, with the good will that bridges all chasms, and without moral compromise or craven fear.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, we come in the assurance, not of our feeble hold of Thee, but of Thy mighty grasp of us.

Whatever the toiling hours of this day upon which we have entered may bring, keep our hearts with Thee as we keep step with Thy will.

Because of Thy sustaining grace, may we face in quiet confidence vexing social problems which our fallible judgments are unable to solve without a wisdom greater than our own.

As stalwart forms disappear from our sight and side, and potent voices are suddenly stilled, we pray that the mantle of those who have fought the good fight and finished the course may fall upon the shoulders of those who in this shrine of each patriot's devotion are striving in the most difficult days of the Republic to make our free land as great in virtue and truth as she is mighty in power.

We ask it in the name of the One whose coming broke the ages in two, and who now is reverenced and adored while the violent are forgotten. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, hallowed be Thy name.

As this Nation of our hope and prayer turns from the birthday of its daring advent among the established governments of the world, may the stern realities of the present

beget in us mighty resolves to face without fear dangers even more formidable than those the founding patriots ever knew. We would solemnly reaffirm the reverent declaration of those who so long ago with intrepid faith stepped upon the shores of this promised land—"In the name of God, Amen."

With the sound of that great amen as our summons in these stirring new days, we would be true to the vision splendid of a redeemed earth where gnawing hunger, blighting superstition, and needless pain and misery will be but haunting memories in the day of deliverance which draweth near for all the sons of men. For this cause we set up our banners in this, Thy glorious day.

We ask it in the name of the Christ whose saving truth is marching on. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, we thank Thee for this moment of communion with the unseen, in a world where the worst constantly wars against the best.

Open our eyes, we pray, to invisible allies which fight by the side of those who keep step with the drumbeat of Thy will—invincible powers which at last will bend and break the spears of evil.

Our strength is dust and ashes,
Our years a passing hour;
But Thou canst use our weakness
To magnify Thy power.

From ease and plenty save us;
From pride of place absolve;
Purge us of low desire;
Lift us to high resolve.

And Thine shall be the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 9, 1962

ETERNAL FATHER, strong to save, in days of old Thy prophets of righteousness summoned Thy fearful and often faithless children to the altar of the Most High for cleansing and strength.

In these days when ancient foundations are being shaken and are crumbling, we would seek our refuge and salvation where they found them—at the altar of the living God.

In a day of swift and shifting change, when the angry passions of men are constantly bursting into devouring flame, enable Thy servants here in the stewardship of their public ministry, as they discharge the grave responsibilities of the people's trust, to be calm and confident, wise and just, their hope in Thee as an anchor sure and steadfast.

In this age on ages telling, make us ever loyal to the high adventure which seeks the larger, nobler way for our struggling race to live on this planet together in concord, according to Thy will for the good of all Thy children.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1962

O GOD OF MEN AND NATIONS, always we come to Thee with deep gratitude for our surpassing heritage.

In the midst of the turmoil of these testing days, we would keep vivid before us the vision of a righteous nation with freedom and justice and opportunity for all.

We lift our prayer to Thee, conscious that our Charter of Freedom reminds us that our worth and our dignity as individuals lie, not in our role as citizens of any State, but because Thou hast created us in Thine image. Beneath our diversities, may we keep sacred the fundamental unity which is the true glory of this dear land of freedom.

Open our eyes to the solemn facts of these contentious days which make it more and more clear that the massed difficulties besetting us are not so much political and economic as they are moral and spiritual, and that in all our baffled search for solution, only by fresh awareness of Thee can the present social decay, which threatens the inner life and the outer strength of the Nation, be changed to decency and righteousness.

We lift our prayer in the Saviour's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, we come with grateful hearts for quiet cloisters of the spirit where, in moments of reverential calm at the altar of Thy sustaining and forgiving grace, Thou dost restore our jaded souls.

We pray to be saved from giving to the tasks that await us anything less than our truest and best. Deliver us from any failure of self-control and from words spoken in haste or in passion.

With clear eyes, may we see Thee as our Father, our fellows near and far as our neighbors, and ourselves as our brothers' keepers. In that vision splendid of Divine Fatherhood and of human brotherhood, may we dream our dreams, fashion our lives, enact our laws, build our Nation, and plan our world until this shadowed earth, which is our home, moves in the orbit of Thy redeeming love.

We ask it in the hallowed name of Him for whose coming Kingdom we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1962

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND LOVE: Pressed and pursued by the high concerns of public service and welfare, in this day of swift global change we come day by day to this altar of

prayer, that our spirits may be steadied with the realization that back of all the dark tragedies of these bewildering days there is a permanent good toward which we strive, the blue sky above the clouds to which we must be loyal if our lives are to be saved from futility and frustration at last.

God the all-righteous One,
Man hath defied Thee:
Yet to eternity standeth Thy word:
Falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside Thee:
Give to us peace in our time O Lord!

We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 16, 1962

O Thou who art the author of liberty, out of the depths of our pity and compassion do we call unto Thee for Thy children under other skies than ours, who by the hands of ruthless tyrants are being deprived of the liberties which are theirs by Thy decree, and which it is Thy will that they shall possess.

Forbid that in the exercise of our own uncoerced freedoms, the anguished yearnings of the enslaved should fall on our ears and find no compassionate response because of the selfish revelry in our own God-given rights.

At the beginning of this yearly week set aside by this free land and sponsored by our national leaders, we would this day join in our supplications with those who pray from sea to sea for those whose sovereignty and culture and treasured traditions, whose individual dignity and self-determination, which are Thy endowment, are being trampled into the dust of servitude by the cruel might of oppressors who hold not Thee in awe.

May the peoples now in chains not lose heart, even as their cry in affliction, "How long, O Lord, how long?" rises to the white throne of Thy mercy.

In this week of remembrance, we would register a vow in heaven and on earth, Thy footstool, as we bow at the altar of Thy justice, that we will never, never deny our expectant faith in the ultimate freedom and welfare of the nations now overrun by invaders who seize the crown jewels of others to enrich their own den of thieves, and leave but a crown of thorns. Thus we make the plight of all fettered peoples our own, as in this shrine of our patriot devotion we pray, "Long may their lands be bright with freedom's holy light," after the present dictators have had their brief and evil sway.

We ask it in the name of the One whose truth makes men free, and who declared, "I am come to bring deliverance to the captives." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1962

Our Father, God, we are grateful for the ministry of prayer that keeps open the channels between Thy life and ours.

We confess that so often we have misused prayer—asking for that which we already have, neglected and unappropriated. In times past, we have beseeched Thee to give us that which we must win for ourselves, perhaps with sweat and tears.

As we come now, give us to see that the first step on the stairway that slopes through doubt and darkness up to Thee is to hush the clamor which so often drowns out the music of Thy peace. Grant us to know that not in the rush and roar of things, but in quietness and confidence, shall we be

strengthened for the work committed to our hands in this day of destiny, when we believe that in Thy providence our America has come to the Kingdom for such a time as this.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1962

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou hast decreed that our faltering dust is linked to eternal destiny.

As we stand in these fields of earthly toil, we bow our heads to listen in reverence to distant bells which speak of our kinship with the eternal, making us conscious, even in the drab surrounding of time and sense, of the divine reality which breaks through the seen in bright shoots of everlastingness.

In the dauntless faith, illumining the future's broadening way, that Thou art in the shadows and behind the shadows, invest and undergird, we pray, the daily labor of Thy servants in this Chamber of national deliberation with a radiance which in all their working days will make their spirits like lighted torches from which others can rekindle their dying flame of courage.

We ask it in the name of the One whose life is the light of men. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1962

O THOU WHO ART FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, we would for this hallowed moment subdue to silence the day's noisy claims, as we listen for the divine voice which guides and blesses and reassures.

We would submit ourselves to the tests of Thy white, searching purity, with which nothing unclean can live. By the judgment of that purity, deliver us, we pray, from the dangerous sophistries which afflict our day and which elevate cleverness above goodness, and humor above honor.

Give us to see what the long travail of the ages makes clear: that where there is no vision, the people perish, as idealism goes down and the false gods of selfish force ascend the throne. Set our eyes on far-off goals, many of which cannot be reached in our brief day, as we pray for Thy kingdom's coming. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 23, 1962

O Thou kindly light of our pilgrim way,
New mercies each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray.

We come confessing that we live too much in the shallowness and shabbiness about us, and that in the rush and clash of busy hours, too often we forget the heavenly vision that lifts us above mediocrity and lifts our eyes to far horizons.

Whatever this new day or the days ahead may hold for us as they commandeer our strength of mind and body and heart, may their appeals lay hold of our wider sympathy and harness our ability to respond to the needs of Thy children, our brethren.

Put upon the lips of those who here speak for a free people the promise of a brightening future. Send us forth girded with Thy might, until by patience, persistence, and enduring courage we become sufficient for the tasks that in Thy name

and in Thy strength we must accomplish for the world's redemption.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1962

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, and to whom a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past: As we come to this session, our hearts again are made heavy by the sudden passing into the unseen of a dedicated public servant, who but yesterday was a part of all the busy affairs of the Senate. Here, across the years, his voice was raised in passionate defense of the causes his conscience told him were right and just. Here, in all his concerns, he manifested loyalty to the fundamental tenets of the Republic which he loved, and for whose defense in his young manhood he marched with the battalions of freedom.

And now, on the very day when from a manmade star out in space the views and voices from this planet are flung back to all the earth, as untold millions look and listen, Henry Dworshak has finished his course here, and has fared forth beyond this bourne of time and space, to know the mystery which one day will come to us all as this mortal puts on immortality.

In the spirit of the fluttering flags at half-mast, we pray especially for Thy consoling grace upon the companion who shared the dedication of his life, and upon the stalwart sons they have given to the world.

In Thy mercy we pray that at last Thou wilt bring us all to the homeland of Thine eternal love.

We ask it in the name of the One who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1962

OUR FATHERS' GOD, AND OURS, in all the whelming waters of tribulation which this day flood the earth, Thou art for us as a shelter from the storm, a covert from the wind, and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

But grant us to realize that Thou art our challenge, as well as our shelter and refuge; and that in the crises of these days, Thy voice to us is calling, in all the want and woe, in all the hunger and misery of our fellows under all skies. Make us the dedicated heralds of Thy healing; teach us to toil and serve, that we may so play our part in this age on ages telling, that we may face with clear conscience the gaze of our contemporaries and the judgment of posterity, and at the end hear Thy "Well done, thou hast been faithful." Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1962

O THOU GOD OF MERCY AND OF GRACE, in this Chamber, a forum of freedom so piled with problems that affect untold millions, we would first of all bring our own hearts to the white light of Thy scrutiny. We confess that too often our own distraught spirits but mirror the angry emotions of this agitated day.

In such tumultuous times give us an inward poise as Thy promise is fulfilled, even in the contentions of our daily toil, "I will keep that man in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on me."

We lift our prayer in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1962

O Thou who dost speak to us in the quietness, forgive us that we seem to listen too often to those about us who shout the loudest.

We would bring to this, our daily altar of prayer, our inner selves, cluttered and confused where the good and the evil, the petty and the great, the wheat and the tares, are so entwined.

Grant us for the living of these days Thy enabling grace, that in our public service and in all our contacts with our fellow pilgrims and in all we say to people and about them, this and every day we may live more nearly as we pray.

In the spirit of the Master we bring our petitions. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1962

Almighty God, the reality behind all earth's shadows: Seeing that we spend our days as a tale that is told and that we pass this way but once, keep us from unkind words and from unkind silences, yet sure and strong in the faith that is in us.

In confused and confusing days—

> Take from our souls the strains and stress
> And let our ordered lives confess
> The beauty of Thy peace.

Empower those who here act for the Nation to do the best and to speak the best that is in them as in Thy name they here strike their blow for the truth of God and the freedom of man. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1962

O God, who art to be surely found if with all our hearts we truly seek Thee: Thou art known by those who love; Thou art seen by those whose hearts are pure; Thou art heard by those who hush earth's blatant noises, and in the quietness listen with reverent hearts.

Thou hast given us thoughts that wander off into eternity; Thou hast so made us that the glory of our life can never be beneath us. Forbid that, when radiant, human hopes are flaming in the sky, we should be blinded by the smoke of our own campfires. When great ideas whose day has come beckon us to be their servants, save us from giving ourselves to the dead past, rather than to the living present and the beckoning future.

We ask it in the ever-blessed Name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1962

O Thou Whose dwelling place is the light of setting suns, the round ocean, the living air, the blue sky, and in the mind of man which is the temple of Thy glory: Shine into our darkness, we pray, by the light of Thy truth; correct the dismal errors of our judgments and the false perspective of our prejudices by the wisdom Thou dost wait to give liberally to all who ask of Thee, and who with pure hearts wait for Thy will and Thy word.

Inspire and guide with the spirit of understanding Thy servants who minister in this Chamber, the few among the many, in a great and crucial day lifted by their fellows to high pedestals of power and influence. May their words and counsel, so laden with possibilities to raise to higher levels this stricken generation, add mightily to the world's store of good will and be for the healing of the nations.

We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1962

ETERNAL GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MEN, as in these glorious days we stand knee deep in the loveliness of the summertime, we thank Thee for every sacrament of beauty of which our enraptured senses drink, in all the wonder of petaled bushes aflame with Thee. May the glory of the earth which showeth Thy handiwork be but a parable of the things that are excellent, blooming in our quickened lives.

In all this holiness of beauty, lead us, we pray Thee, to the beauty of holiness. Lift us out of the bondage of fear and hate into Thy new day, whose dawning now gilds the sky, when, in a better order of human society, pity and laughter will return to the common ways of man and peace—even Thy peace—will breathe Thy benediction upon our strife-weary world.

We pray in Thy holy name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1962

LORD OF ALL BEING, we would join the undaunted pilgrims of the ages whose God is our salvation. We would claim kinship with the innumerable company who, in darkness drear, hath found in Thee the one true light.

In the dusty caravan of another day's journey across trackless sands, we would pause at this altar our fathers builded, and where from the birth of our liberty there has burned the sacred fire, that we may keep the bright torch of truth and faith aflame amid the encircling gloom that shuts us in.

May that truth make us free from the prejudices which so often blind our eyes to the things which are excellent, and thus raise false barriers of misunderstanding. May that faith lead us on, as a pillar of cloud and of fire, to the

shining city of human brotherhood, whose ways are peace, whose citizenship rests only on character, and whose laws rest on human good.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1962

O God, whose spirit searcheth all things, and whose love beareth all things: For this dedicated moment, turning from our often divisive loyalties and our party cries, we would humbly bow in a unity of spirit, realizing our oneness in Thee.

Forgive us for praying that Thy kingdom may come, and then, by our own selfish stubbornness, barring the way when it has sought to come through us.

Deliver us from the hypocrisy of giving lipservice to the golden goals of Thy kingdom, as if we looked for it without, in others, and not in our own hearts. Grant us a fundamental fealty to the common good, expressing itself in divergent attitudes and convictions which, are the glory of our national heritage, yet putting always above partisan advantage the weal and welfare of the commonwealth to which we solemnly pledge our supreme allegiance. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1962

O merciful God, whose law is truth, and whose statutes stand forever: We beseech Thee to grant unto us, who in the morning seek Thy face, fervently to desire, wisely to trace, and obediently to fulfill all that is pleasing unto Thee.

In these days so freighted with destiny, grant that those who here speak to the Nation and for the Republic may

be so true to their high calling as servants of the common good that radiant joy may transfigure the drudgery of duty, and that on this new day appointed tasks may be met with purity of purpose, without moral compromise or craven fear.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1962

Almighty and everlasting God, at this white altar of peace and quietness, where all divisive cries are stilled, we bow in reverence and humility, praying for the enthronement of brotherhood in all the earth.

May the instrumentalities of justice, mutual understanding, and cooperative endeavor being devised in these anxious, yet hopeful, days, be but the channels of Thy providence, bringing to fulfillment at last the ancient prophet's dream, "Violence shall be no more heard in Thy land, wasting nor destruction within Thy borders."

Save those who minister here from false choices; and guide their hands and minds to heal and bind, to build and to bless.

In the name of the One who maketh all things new, we pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1962

O God, whose rule is law, but in whom there is love that never fails and a mercy like the wideness of the sea: Thou hast given us our yesterdays, and in that record of what we have written, we have written of good or of ill. Our grateful memories of temptations resisted and vic-

tories won are secure. Our tomorrows are within Thy care, as the future lies before us.

Today is ours, fresh from Thy hands. It is sustained as in the morning we write at the top of its page "In the beginning, God," Grant us the grace to command it, to seize it, to mold it to Thy purposes, and so to number its hours that we may apply our hearts unto the wisdom that shall be as healing balm for this ailing world.

We ask it in the holy name of the One who has said: "As thy day, so shall thy strength be." Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1962

Our Father, God, for the glory of the earth, in the haunting beauty of which we walk for the dawn of the new day, for the stars in the night sky, for the gifts of love and of friendship, for sacred and sunny memories, and for every radiant hope which inspires us on our pilgrim way, we lift our morning paean of grateful praise.

In Thy presence our arrogance is rebuked and our pride of opinion is mocked as we confess that left to ourselves we but grope in the darkness, and that our sight is dim, our knowledge is partial, and our judgments fallible.

As we face the tangled problems of a free system where the people rule, make us honest and honorable enough to bear the vision of the truth, wherever it may lead, and to be done with all pretense. In spite of suspicions, animosities, disappointments, disillusionments, and of hopes deferred which plague the councils of men, gird our hearts to seek peace and pursue it, that the sadly sundered family of Thy children may at least be bound by golden cords of understanding and fellowship around the feet of the one God.

We ask it in the Name above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1962

O THOU WHO CHANGETH NOT: In a world rocked and shaken and swept by the whirlwind and riven by the earthquake, we would find the peace of Thy presence and the whisper of the still, small voice.

In the dire need of these times, steal Thou upon our troubled spirits like the vesper calm of lingering twilight, like the gentle dew on parched ground; commission us, we pray, as the servants of Thy righteous will, and fit our spirits for that high role as channels of Thy purpose for all mankind.

Save us from the tragic mistakes of the past. Make us architects of a statelier temple of humanity where no child of Thine shall lack daily bread or be denied access to the common altar of fellowship where all kindreds are one before Thine impartial eyes.

Thus may we know the things which belong to our peace and to the peace of the world.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, out of earth's shadows in which falteringly we make our way, we turn to Thee, in whom there is no darkness at all, asking that by Thy strengthening grace we may open the windows of our lives, that they may be flooded with Thy light. We would lean our human frailty against the massive pillars of Thine almightiness.

With the revealing vision of Thy beauty, deliver us this day from ugliness in thought and speech and conduct. May those who here serve the Nation possess a hidden goodness which flames with moral indignation at blatant betrayals of trust endangering the very perpetuity of the Republic.

Give us a dedicated sense of our national destiny and the calm assurance that, in all the tumult of these disordered days, Thy purposes are coming to their coronation in the lives of men.

We ask it in the name of the One who goes forth conquering and to conquer. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1962

FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, with the hunger for Thee forever gnawing in our inner selves, save us, we pray, from accepting the low standards of the world across which we move and from thus spinelessly melting into our surroundings. Join us to the company of whom in the final record it will be said, "They looked unto Him and were radiant and their faces were not ashamed."

Even as we come with deep contrition for our shortcomings, give us to sense, beyond all the irritating details of legislation, that Thou hast summoned us as trustees of civilization to defend the gains of the ages and to help create social institutions essential to human progress.

We pray for those who here serve in this temple of governance, that giving expression to their highest and noblest thoughts, there may rest unsullied upon their shoulders the white mantle of the Nation's honor.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, with so much of the earth in fetters of the mind and body, we are grateful for this free land, throned in richness between the seas.

For borders without guns, for frontiers which are swinging gates, for unity in diversity, for peace that holds a continent in its blessed sway, and for equality of opportunity which beckons all to its summits, we lift the Te Deum of our thanksgiving.

May those called by the people's choice to defend our heritage and to administer the affairs of the Nation make daily choice of decisions determined by spiritual integrity amid the corruption that is in the world through the lust of power, that without fear or favor they may contend steadfastly for the right, as Thou dost give them to see the right.

In the name of the Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1962

O THOU WHO ART THE CENTER AND SOUL OF EVERY SPHERE, yet to each trusting heart how near: Out of our littleness of conception and action we turn our faces to the fullness of Thy immensity, flooding beyond the ken of our mortal knowledge. As now we lift our drab duties to the effulgence of Thy utter self-giving in limitless love, give us to see that a day is coming when we shall look back on our finished life with its long, ardent ambitions, its hot strenuous endeavors, its noise and dust and rush, and see that it is emptiness and shadow, except when here and there we have turned aside to be thoughtful and unselfish.

So at the beginning of this new week, with all the burning pressure of world crisis focusing on this forum of deliberation, we pause for this moment to be reminded of that which changes everything in the balance of power for those who wait upon Thee—"The eternal God is your home and your help, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

We ask it in the name of Him whose pierced hands have turned the stream of the centuries into new channels. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, without Thee, Thy life, Thy light, Thy love, our own hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. In our generation our shuddering souls have peered into pits of human horror which but reveal the awful depths to which man may fall when he turns utterly from Thee.

Unless we find Thee, and art found of Thee, the laws of Thy physical universe break our mortal life and the laws of Thy mortal order make mockery of our futile rebellion.

Breathe now Thy peace on hearts that pray—the peace that comes only when our jarring discords are turned to the music of Thy will; then, as heralds of Thy love, send us forth across all barriers of race and creed, bearing to yearning hearts, as a holy sacrament, the bread of human kindness and the red wine of willing sacrifice.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1962

ETERNAL SPIRIT, Thou who are not far off on the vast rim of the universe, but closer than hands or feet—a present help: As we move through this world of abounding wonder, give us to realize that every gleam of beauty is a pull toward Thee, every pulse of love is a tendril that draws in Thy direction, every vindication of truth links our finite minds up to the Mind that undergirds us, and every deed of good will fulfills all our tiny adventures of faith.

As we think of the peace that comes alone with the climate of unselfish good will to all men, we pray Thy blessing upon the President of this body as he wings his way to faraway, historic lands where the ferment of these agitated times is erupting in yeasty social commotion. Strengthen the impact his presence brings as the voice of America in the countries to which he goes, as he speaks for the Republic whose servant he is, as he refutes false witness spread by those who hate freedom, and as he brings to multitudes the assurance that the hope and might of this free land are with them in resisting tyranny and in their quest for more abundant life.

This we lift up as our soul's prayer in the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1962

Our Father, God, Thou hast ordained that, in the leadership of the nations, the care of the many must ever rest upon the shoulders of the chosen few. We beseech Thee to give understanding, humility, and charity to those who in Thy name and for the Nation's sake are entrusted in this Chamber of decision with the power to give direction to the life of the Republic.

Endue them, we pray, with such wise insights regarding the total pattern of human needs that every vexed question of boundary and trade, of production and distribution, of language and culture, may be transformed into bridges across all the chasms that now separate man from brother man—until Thy will be done and Thy Kingdom come in all the earth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, again with the miracle of dawn has come the gift of a new day. With contrition for past failures, may no vain regrets keep us from seizing the challenge of each new day as we hear the angel of the morning declare—

> Each night I burn the records of the day—each sunrise every soul is born again.

And so through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought, we would each face this fresh chance with the glorious consciousness, "I am with Thee."

Even in the heat and burden of daylight's tasks and of evening weariness, let not our strength fail nor our vision fade.

In the midst of all that besets us, make us patient and considerate of one another in the fret and jar of human contacts, remembering that even in the glare of public gaze, each fights a hard battle and walks a lonely way.

We ask it in the name of the One who in a dark garden trod the winepress alone. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1962

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY, beyond the circle of whose all-embracing love we cannot drift, with all our unworthiness we come for this hallowed period of communion with Thee in the mystery that spirit with spirit may meet.

From the traditions which separate us and write our names in different camps of thought and conviction, we pause for the upward look which makes us one with Thee, Thou Father of us all.

In these times that test men's souls in the fiery judgment of these epochal days, when willful men have turned from Thy light of universal brotherhood, quicken, we pray, every noble impulse, sanctify our best endeavors, and, no matter of what else the ebbing years may rob us, keep our hearts with Thee and our feet in the pathway of Thy will, where alone is our peace and our salvation. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1962

O God, whose word is hidden in the framework of the world, which shines in the mind of man, and is made flesh in the Holy One who unveils Thy heart: We can know Thee only in part, as in a glass darkly; but we know what goodness is, and we believe that Thou art good; we know what justice is, and we believe that Thou art just; we know what love is, and we believe that Thou art love, and that that love will not let us go.

Help us to yield our flickering torch to Thee, to give Thee back the life we owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

May new days bring new visions of Thy truth, new surprises of Thy love, and an ampler service to our fellow men. May our homes be more hallowed, our work more sacramental, as the life in Thee unveils to us its worth and its wonder.

We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1962

Our Father, God, whose paths are mercy and truth, who knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising, and who understandeth, afar off, the thoughts of our hearts: At the

beginning of another week, we pause in the busy rush of the legislative process, to ask that the deliberations of these hours may reflect the guidance of Thy Spirit.

When work, worry, and hopes deferred take their constant toll of our human resources, as laborers together with Thee, grant us, we implore, a sense of an untapped spiritual reservoir. Restore our souls with the joyous assurance of Thy salvation. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked or perverse way in us, for we would come to this high and holy hill of the people's weal with pure hearts and clean hands, not lifting up our souls unto vanity.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1962

Our Father, God, amid all the harsh voices of this vast, agitated world save us from the tragedy of listening most to the crashing earthquake and the whirlwind and of missing Thy call in the hush of the still, small voice. In these solemn times of the supreme test of America's creed, when determined foes deny and defy the very conceptions and aspirations which to us, nurtured in liberty, make life precious and sacred, may this Nation under God out of all our differences, have a new birth of freedom.

May we never falter when the choice is between honor and selfish, safety-first calculation. Beyond the strategy of this global struggle, with which so much said and done in this forum has to do, may we see the depth and scope of His historic spiritual drama of the centuries and may that vision turn its blood and sweat and tears into final glory in the victory of decency and right. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1962

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, fountain of all wisdom and goodness, we thank Thee for the gift of sleep when the tangled web of weary striving and confused thinking emerges clarified and straightened by the touch of a new day.

We come with grateful hearts in this temple of freedom, bowing at the altar of prayer which our fathers set up at the Nation's birth. In so turbulent a time, with its tumult and shouting, for our soul's sake we must find the quiet places, the still waters, the green pastures, if our jaded and frayed spirits are to be restored.

Knowing that out of the travail of many a violent age a great new birth has come, by Thy grace keep our faith steady lest for the lack of it we lose what Thou dost intend in this prophetic day.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1962

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the source from which we come, the goal to which we travel, the light and strength of these our pilgrim days, as we set our faces once more toward daily tasks that clamor for attention, we pray for strength sufficient to endure as those seeing the invisible.

At the beginning of this day's deliberations we would be still and know that Thou art God. Into Thy hands we commit ourselves and our cause even as we pray "Thy Kingdom Come." We would keep within the grasp of Thy firm hand the threads of this day's words and deeds that we may not mar the fair design of what Thou dost wait to do for us and through us.

In Thy radiance may trivial rounds become sacraments and even bitterness and disappointment and temporary failure be transfigured and redeemed.

We ask it in the ever blessed name of Jesus, savior of men. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, all the paths of our direst needs lead to Thee and Thy everlasting mercy. 'Midst all the traffic of our busy ways we are grateful for this morning sanctuary of the spirit.

Be to us a quickening presence, a sustaining power, a refuge from the tumult and confusion of our times.

We pray for the President, the Vice President, the Congress, and for all in every land who bear the responsibility of public office.

As those here face the thorny problems which still confront them, make those who speak for the Nation patient in argument, charitable in judgment, and slow to wrath.

Help us each to keep to the end of our brief day the unbroken vigil of the inner light, and to leave the world better for our sojourn in it.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, in whose love and wisdom lie all our hopes, we thank Thee for life's loveliness that cannot be shattered or blighted by all the venomous hate and envy which so sorely set Thy human family into contending camps.

Even as today's discords bombard our ears, we are grateful for friendships which withstand all tests, for music which gives wings to our drooping spirits, for truth which breaks the shackles of error, and for human beacons of righteousness where Thou dost show sufficient of Thy light for us in the dark to rise by.

As we bow now at this shrine of Thy grace, we know in very truth that we cannot live by bread alone, and that our spirits must have an escape into the higher realm measured not by clocks or calendars. Make real to us the kingdom whose radiant verities are its faith, its ideals, its visions which shine on the far horizons, and its aspirations which lay hold of God and goodness without alloy.

We lift our prayer in the name of the Perfect One who is our light. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1962

Our Father, God, who bringeth forth righteousness as the light, and judgment as the noonday, our souls wait upon Thee; our expectation is from Thee.

In this challenging hour in which our lot is cast, when appalling human need makes this a time for greatness, save us from the devices and the duplicity of cowardly compromises, as enticing evil lies in wait to silence our consciences. Deliver us, we pray, from the inclinations of our own hearts to self-deceit.

Grant that our hearts may be shrines of devotion, our homes nurseries of virtue, our personalities centers of contagious good will, and our Nation a flaming beacon of hope, whose beams shall battle the darkness of the world.

We ask it in reverence of the Name above every name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1962

Our Father, God, who in the toils and troubles of time has set vistas of eternity in our hearts, save us, we pray, from the supreme hypocrisy of making this fenced-in dedicated time of communion but a conventional gesture of unfelt piety. As we come, may we be deeply concerned that our personal attitudes to our fellow men shall be a part of the answer, not a part of the problem of our ailing social order.

Grant to those who exercise their public responsibilities in this Chamber of governance some part in the fulfillment of Thy redemptive purpose for Thy world. Through what is said and done here, lay Thy hand in healing upon the open sores of this day. Stir up our wills and kindle our imaginations, that there may be found the way to a just and ordered society in which all may gain the due reward of their labors, and in which men will serve Thee and one another in harmony and mutual good will. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1962

Almighty God, our Father, with a new dawn, in a world drenched with beauty, we have awakened again by Thy mercy to toil, to gratitude, and to friendship. Grant us now, in the heat and burden of these days of deliberation and decision, a sustaining realization that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. So teach us to number these days, so crucial in the life of our own Nation and the whole world, that in national and global affairs we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

May our personal lives, freed of pettiness and prejudice, and radiant with the good will which leaps all barriers, be

open channels through which Thy saving grace may flow for the healing of the nations. Thus may this land of our hope and prayer fulfill the potent ministry to all the world to which in Thy providence we believe Thou hast called us.

We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1962

O God, in whose strong hands are the threads of every life which seeks its pattern on the loom of Thy righteous will, back of all our thinking and striving we are conscious of something divine that haunts us and will not let us go—something at work behind our fallible minds. Sometimes in the stillness we hear it like soft bells at evening pealing; sometimes in hours of mystic insight we feel it, and rising above the trifles which so often clutter our days, our hungry and empty hearts cry out, "Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee." If that petition is but answered in these stern, strange times in which our lot is cast, if really in our hearts we draw near to Thee, then at Thy fire our little candle will blaze as we bring Thy light to every shadowed area of human need.

Even so, send us forth in the Spirit of the Master whose we are and whom we serve. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1962

Eternal God and Father of us all: Amid the maddening maze of things that fill our toiling days with fret and fever, we would tarry for this hallowed moment at another week's beginning in this sheltered pavilion of prayer. We bow before Thee in the creative faith that the very justice and social welfare which the public servants are here to preserve, promote, and protect are rooted and grounded in Thy

sovereignty. Even as with the righteous sword of our national might lifted against the debasing idolatry of the police state, we know in our hearts that more vital than earthly armament, if we are to be the instruments of Thy purpose, is the putting on of the whole armor of God. Only as we fight in that shining mail can we be among the peacemakers who are called the children of God. In paths beyond our human eye to discover, lead us to the concord which will heal the divisions which shorten the arm of our national strength—a unity which is the fruit of righteousness—as we bring every thought and effort into captivity to the High and Holy One of whom it is declared, "And the government shall be upon His shoulders."

In His name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1962

God, our Father, unchanging amid the changing years, we come to this daily fellowship of prayer, not so much to seek Thee as to keep open our faltering lives in penitence and a sense of dire need of Thy waiting strength.

Thou are the God of hope. In a world filled with sights that sadden and thorny problems that bewilder and perplex, may our hearts be lifted up by the realization that ours is also a time arched with the promise of a better tomorrow.

Following the gleam of the hope that sends a shining ray along the future's broadening way, give us, we pray, sagacity, spaciouness of mind and a transparent purity of heart, that even surrounded by hatred and pride and greed, we may see God and the godlike as we walk humbly the ascending path of a climbing faith that has a better air to breathe than the smog of cynicism and doubt and denial.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1962

O God, our Father: To the waiting altar of Thy mercy we come, each with his private need which Thou only knowest. The din of words assails our ears from an agitated world. Grant us an inner calm undisturbed by any violent winds that blow. In Thy might may we move forward with a strong and dauntless faith, remembering that the only limit to our realization of the radiant dreams for tomorrow is the doubts which darken today.

In spite of our willfulness, we are grateful that in the voice of conscience, whose voice cannot be drowned by any sophistry, in quiet hours when above earth's strident noises the still, small voice whispers to our inner selves, in thoughts with wings that will not stay on the ground, in deep needs that drive us to a strength beyond our own, in the sacrament of human love, in the spiritual heritage of our race, and in Christ, over all, Thou dost stand at the door and knock. May we open that door, whose only latch is on the inside, and give hospitality to noble impulses and to dedicated good will across all gulfs and borders.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1962

O God, whose mercies are new every morning, we seek the confidence of Thy guiding hand as this day we commit to Thee our wills and our work.

Grant that those who here have been called to high places in the life of the state, in this hour when such vast issues are at stake, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand, may rise to greatness of vision and soul as the anxious eyes of all the world are upon this Chamber.

In the questions which press, deliver us from all malice and contempt for the convictions of others, lest we sour our own souls.

Open our ears, we beseech Thee, to hear the call of far horizons and the stirring trumpets of challenge sounding the advance to a new era for mankind, as our America in a darkened world lifts aloft the flaming light of freedom. Amen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, Thou hast ordained that not in cushioned seats of complacent safety, but in danger and stern conflict shall we find our strength and our triumph. With demands and pressures that sap our resources, send us forth, we pray, to meet the tasks of this day with the assurance that has steadied Thy servants across all the changing centuries as they have gratefully testified, "He restoreth my soul."

As in the name of the God of freedom and of justice we dedicate our strength to serve the present age, grant us Thy sustaining grace, that we may be—

> True to all truth the world denies,
> Not tonguetied by its gilded lies,
> Not always right in all men's eyes,
> But faithful to the light within.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, for this quiet moment at a week's beginning, closing the door upon the outer world with its tumultuous and unpredictable events, we would see our-

selves in the white light of Thy holiness. In the light of Thy presence we pour contempt on all our contemptible pride, as in Thy effulgence we stand revealed in all our pettiness and betrayals of the highest.

In the world about us, wickedness seems so often triumphant and strong; goodness, so rare and feeble. But though the wrong seems oft so strong, may we become sure of Thee, as men who watch through a long night know beyond all doubt or questioning that daylight has returned. Send us forth as sons of the morning, to bring Thy radiance to every shadowed life we meet.

We ask it in the name of the One who is the light in all earth's darkness, and of whom it has been declared: "In Him life lay, and that life is the light of men." Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1962

ETERNAL GOD, who—though all else fades—remainest the same, Thou dost leave us never, even when we leave Thee and walk with those who have not God in all their thoughts. Thy tender mercy is over all Thy works.

We come, at the beginning of yet another day, praying for strength for our burdens, wisdom for our perplexities, insight to discern the signs of our times, and faith sufficient even to remove mountains that loom frowningly before us.

We come with an ardent prayer in our hearts for our America. Confessing her failures, purged of her betrayals of democracy, may she be more and more an inspiring and emancipating power for security and stability in the cruel conflict between light and darkness now raging in its mad fury around this disordered world.

We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace, Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1962

O God, our shelter from life's stormy blasts, and our eternal home: From all the baseness which tempts us in this mortal span, and which tends to pull us away from our highest selves, we come stretching lame hands of prayer to Thee; yet nothing of merit in our hands we bring.

The insincerity which we try to cloak from our fellows, and even from ourselves, with shabby sophistries, is transparent deception to Thee, from whom no secrets are hid. Break down in each of us the idols of our false pride, and shatter the unworthy altars of our self-love.

And now for the unfinished tasks and tangled questions which clamor for decision in these last days of the session, consecrate with an awareness of Thy presence the way the feet of Thy servants here dedicated to the Nation's welfare may go. Steady them with the assurance that when the Kindly Light is followed obediently and patiently, the humblest work will shine and the roughest places be made plain.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1962

O Father, God, always in the beginning, before in this Chamber we talk to one another, we would hush our thoughts to stillness, and speak in prayer to Thee. We come because there is written upon the tablet of our hearts the golden motto inscribed upon these walls—"In God We Trust". We would that Thy light might flood our inmost selves, now so cluttered and confused, where the good and the evil, the petty and the great, the wheat and the tares, are so entwined.

May those who have been called to administer the affairs of the Nation make daily choice of spiritual integrity, amid the corruption that is in the world, through the lust for power. Being steadfast and immovable, may they contend for the right as Thou dost give them to see the right.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1962

Our Father, God, Thou hast set us in a world of wonder and beauty. Every new day we turn to Thee, seeking deliverance from low motivation which would crucify wonder and beauty on a cross of personal greed or gain.

Give us to see and to feel that our highest joy in these fleeting days of mortal life is found in the loveliness of nature, in the lure of friendship, in the conquest of difficulty, and in the compensations of selfless service. In the preoccupation of this world capital, with vast issues that in their implications belt the earth, forgive us for our tendency to see too readily human failings in those close to us, and for our slowness in being aware of the virtues of those who toil by our side.

In this day of destiny, when in the fires of revolution all humanity seems molten, ready to be poured into new channels, may we be carried up into Thy great purposes for Thy human family, and find in Thee, Father of mankind, above our human contentions, the goal of all our striving and the end of all our desiring, as we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done." We ask it in the name of the Holy One who taught us thus to pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1962

O Thou all-knowing and all-loving God, who in such a time as this hast called fallible men gathered here to the ministry of high service in public affairs, we pray that in all their deliberations Thou wilt deliver from undue pride of opinion, from intolerance, and from lightly ascending any throne of final judgment. Keep us from sitting in the seat of the scornful, as we remember our own lack of knowledge and our failings in past appraisals.

With a new world emerging from the churning waters which are engulfing old landmarks, help Thy servants standing within these hallowed walls to be vividly aware that Thou hast committed as a solemn trust to their hands the defense and preservation of the shining truths that make and keep all men free.

We ask it in the dear, dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1962

O Lord, who art our light and our salvation, we would escape from the tyranny of things which so fill the horizons of each new day, as we open our hearts to Thee for this hallowed moment.

We confess the failures of our vaunted goodness and the subtle pressures that cause us to fall from high standards.

By Thy grace, develop in us the moral stamina that we may not supinely melt into our surroundings.

Make us more worthy of the gifts of heart and mind and spirit that with crimson cost have fashioned the fabric of the Republic. In these testing days so dark with dire danger, make us worthy of those who in their strength and devotion have given their all that this Nation might endure as a land of hope and glory for all the earth.

We ask it in the name of the Master who has declared, "As thy day, so shall thy strength be." Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1962

OUR FATHER, GOD, in a world where so much is uncertain, we would keep ourselves in the constancy of Thy love—feeling solid foundations beneath our faltering feet, as with no clouds of doubt we say, "I know whom I have believed." With that one certainty—the assurance of Thy ceaseless and unchanging love—we can face whatever the years may bring, as we are saved from timidity and faintheartedness, into confidence, courage, and faith.

Now that in these solemn times the supreme test of the Nation and of all humanity has come, we pray that Thou wilt strip us of our illusions. Give us to see that if we are to march with Thy truth, we must be actively on the side of the legitimate strivings for more abundant life of Thy children under all skies. Send us forth with triumphant assurance that in spite of human blunders and folly, the victory of Thy love is sure in all the earth.

We ask it in the name of Him who came to do Thy will. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1962

OUR FATHERS' GOD AND THE GOD OF THEIR SUCCEEDING RACE: As the hour draws near when the last words will be said and this people's temple of governance will be left empty and silent, as the tumult and the shouting dies and the captains of legislative authority depart, we come with the fervent prayer in our hearts:

> "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
> Lest we forget—lest we forget!"

May those who here in the exercise of their public stewardship have spoken and acted according to their conscience and convictions, having followed flickering lights in darkened times, cling not to any vain regrets. As the sands of the session run out, we know that what is written is written, as there comes the final entry in another volume of the Republic's history.

Grant the deep desire of Thy servants that in Thy wisdom Thou wilt overrule what has been done unworthily or done amiss, and forgive for what has been left undone.

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, may the Lord lift the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace—peace in your own hearts, peace in the dear land where still burns freedom's holy light, and peace throughout all the earth to men of good will.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1963

Let us lift up our hearts in prayer:

OUR FATHER, GOD, amid earth's shadows Thou art the reality in all, above all, beyond all, the inspiration and consolation of our changing days and years.

In the stillness of this hallowed moment, with an anxious world eager to listen to what is said and done in this historic Chamber, we come devoutly praying for Thy divine guidance, Thy Kindly Light, without which our feeble hands will falter, and our striving will be losing.

In Thee alone are the meaning and glory of life and the benediction in which all things move.

In this high hour, as the storied gavel has fallen with its new summons for deliberation and decision to those who here represent the Nation's will and the Nation's voice, above all sectional and party labels and shibboleths, may there be lifted at the very beginning of this session the fervent petition whose melody makes us one—God bless America.

As in this shrine of each patriot's devotion, public servants will take upon their lips this day the solemn words of the oath of office, "So help me God," may that battlecry, like the sound of a great amen, belt the globe as trumpets pealing.

May that vow bombard the ears of those who, imagining a vain thing, have not Thee in awe, and who thus deal in chains and fetters of the mind.

From militant millions in this free land may the individual realization of America's awesome mission, as the torch of the world, sound forth the proud witness to the faith that makes our cause invincible as that sign is written in the heavens and on the earth, "So help me God."

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, hallowed be Thy name. Give us to see that if the radiance of that name above every name does not touch with luster and reverence the tasks Thou dost give us to accomplish as we deal with our fellows, our lip professions of faith are futile and vain. With the assurance of Thy undergirding, O Lord, deliver us from the sullenness of temper that clouds the sunshine from other faces and from the gloom that makes life harder for those who walk by our side. In all the national deliberations that loom in the days that hasten, keep our motives clean, our vision clear, our patriotism undefiled, our speech guarded, our judgments fair, and our consciences unbetrayed. We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, with desperate needs which cannot be met at the world's broken cisterns, we turn unfilled to Thee.

As on this day of inventory and challenge, through the eyes of its chosen leadership, our Nation surveys the baffling ramifications of the state of the Union, our bewildered hearts cry out, "Who is sufficient for these things?" as uncertain judgments weigh vast issues which belt the earth, and fallible minds face tangled relationships involving the very life of the Nation.

With so great a commission given to those who have been sent here with the trust and hope of this farflung Republic, solemnize those so commissioned with the realization that what is accomplished will depend most of all upon the state of their union with the source of all true strength, knowing as we do in our highest hours that unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who would build it.

We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1963

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-LIVING GOD, hushing our feverish ways, in contrition we bow in this quiet moment dedicated to the unseen and eternal.

Confirm, we beseech Thee, our abiding faith in the deep and holy foundations which the fathers laid, lest in foolish futility we attempt to build on sand, instead of rock.

In this solemn hour of human destiny deepen in us, we pray, an awareness of surpassing opportunity and of splendid mission to do our full part in averting a global catastrophe as our willful world is given the chance of these fateful days to choose life or death—the blessing, or the dreadful

curse which men can bring upon themselves as they turn from Thy love and Thy law.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1963

O THOU WHOSE THRONE IS JUSTICE AND TRUTH: Frail creatures of dust, yet stamped with Thine image, serving out our brief span on the world's vast stage, we would set our little lives in the midst of Thine eternity.

As those to whom has been committed the stewardship of the fair and firm fabric of the Nation's life, grant us now, in a violent world, in these grim days of decision, a saving experience of inner quiet and serenity.

Knowing that all truth is Thine, that it is only truth that makes men free, and that all fetters of the mind and spirit and body, as they desecrate human dignity, are an offense to Thee, strengthen our will, we beseech Thee, never to be browbeaten by threatening evil, or to surrender to craven fear; that having done all for a just peace, to stand steadfastly where honor and duty draw the line from which there can be no retreat without our being recreant to Thy solemn trust, and thus failing both man and Thee.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1963

ETERNAL GOD, spirit of light and truth, of beauty and freedom, bestow unto us, we pray, Thy sustaining grace, that our strength fail not, nor the vision splendid fade in the heat and burden of the day.

Grant us the grace of toiling in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal. In work that keeps faith sweet

and strong, Thou callest us to be fellow laborers with Thee. We bring our stained lives to the holiness that shames our uncleanness, to the love that forgives our inequities, to the truth that reveals our falseness, to the patience that outlasts our fickleness.

In the fret and jar of these difficult days, make us thoughtful one with another, remembering that each comrade by our side fights a hard fight and walks a lonely way. Teach us a gentler tone, a sweeter charity of words, and a more healing touch for all the smart of this wounded world. Grant us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the vast designs of this glorious and challenging day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy purpose which is marching on.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1963

Our Father, God, in the midst of all the bafflements of our mortal days we are grateful for the light that shines, and the music which sings, at the heart of our faith.

In the light of Thy holiness we are made aware that the chief quest of our stay on this earthly stage is to achieve the purity of heart which alone brings the faculty of seeing Thee and the godlike everywhere.

In a day when all the most precious values are imperiled by powers of darkness, arouse and stir us from our selfish love of comfort. Drive us, we beseech Thee, by the compulsion of these volcanic times from easy retreats from reality. Give us open eyes to see the momentous facts of our generation, and undergird us with courage to meet them and dedicated intelligence to handle them.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1963

ETERNAL GOD, FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, whose faithfulness abides in spite of all our fickleness, whose forgiveness outlasts all our transgressions, take from our minds which at best see but as in a glass darkly, the delusions which so often color our fallible judgments and control our partisan verdicts. Keep us from mistaking one ray of light for the total effulgence of the sun.

Arm our spirits in this forum of liberty to guard well the principles which are the very warp and woof of the Republic's life. Give us to see, with a solemnity that awes our spirits, that if as a people we come to value anything more than freedom under God, we will lose our birthright, and that if it is comfort or luxuries, security, or money that a nation, in practice values most, in the long run as it gains that material world it will lose its soul.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1963

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who art the fountain of all grace, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and nations, we sorely need the strength of Thy presence and the confidence of Thy guidance, for in the labyrinth of days like these we can so easily lose our way.

If we look only at the confusion of this rapidly changing world about us, we are filled with the uncertainty of it all. Its ominous threats drive us to Thee, our God, for apart from Thee our anxieties blot out our assurance, our faith is subdued by doubt, and courage gives way to fear.

As to those in whose unworthy hands have been placed the crying needs of stricken humanity, may the thoughts of our

minds, the sympathies of our hearts, the words of our lips and the decisions of our deliberations be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1963

O God and Father of mankind, in the awareness of whose presence our hearts are gladdened and our jaded spirits renewed: For all the ventures and endeavors in which we are called to be colaborers with Thee, we bless Thy holy name. We would greet this day and the waiting days of this new week with reverence for the challenges they contain. Prepare us to approach its tasks with quiet and clean minds.

Along this week's busy ways may we meet our comrades with laughter on our lips and understanding in our hearts, being gentle, kind, and courteous even when we are weary, to come to the eventide with the joy that comes from work well done. Direct us all the day long of this earthly life till the shadows lengthen and the evening falls and our toil is over. Then in Thy mercy grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1963

O Thou who dost speak in the quietness to listening hearts, cleanse the thoughts that color our outlook on all life, for we know that only to the pure dost Thou grant the vision of Thy face. Even in these troublous times, may our hearts be untroubled as we stay our minds on Thee.

In all our preparation to defend our liberty, beyond the strategy of our material weapons may we see clearly the spiritual depth and scope of the historic drama in which

we are called to play our part, and may that vision splendid turn its colossal cost into final glory for all mankind.

In our private lives and in our public service, help us this and every day to live more nearly as we pray.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1963

Our Father, God, before the day's perplexities close in about us, we are grateful for this hushed moment dedicated to the upward look.

As we raise our eyes to the hills, even as did Thy servant, the Psalmist of old, we are conscious of peaks and powers beyond our puny reach. We confess that as we tread drab and dreary paths, we so often do not see high enough or far enough, and so are caught in a confusion which blinds and cheats us.

Teach us that today's duties will be edged with crimson and gold only as we look at the mountains which pierce the horizons of faith, as they speak of the truths and values which given confidence to our perturbed souls.

So this day, as we lift our eyes to the hills of Thy grace, may our prayers turn to pageants of living and giving.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1963

God of our Fathers, bewildered by the wild confusion of this clamorous world, at noontide we would wait in quietness, that the roiled waters of agitated discussion may become clear and our disturbed spirits tranquil pools of prayer and peace.

We confess that unmindful of how fallible we are, forgetting that a humble and a contrite heart is the only sacrificial offering Thou dost require, too often pride of our own attitudes and opinions blinds us to the inadequacy of our own judgments.

In our personal, inner lives make us worthy of these days of global destiny in which our common humanity faces powers of malignant evil seeking to debauch and enslave Thy sons and daughters and Thine shall be the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1963

O THOU GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, whose ways are mercy and truth, and in whose love and wisdom lie all our help and hope, in the morning our prayers rise to Thee.

Cleanse us, we beseech Thee, from secret faults which may mar our public service. Give us to see that we cannot consistently call mankind to put aside the weapons of carnage and destruction if our own lives are arsenals of suspicion, hatred, prejudice, and a selfish disregard for the feelings and rights of others.

In these hectic and explosive days may we be strengthened with might, and our jaded souls refreshed, as Thou dost lead us into green pastures and beside still waters—

> Spirit of purity and grace,
> Our weakness, pitying see,
> O make our hearts Thy dwelling place,
> And worthier of Thee.

Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, at the day's beginning in this hushed and hallowed moment, we pause to proclaim our faith that Thy truth, against which the gates of hell cannot prevail, is marching on to its coronation, even amid the perplexities and bafflements of these terrific days.

In the midst of events so colossal on the confused world's stage, O God, who sitteth above the flood of man's insanity, lift us into the only greatness we shall ever know by using us as the channels of Thy purpose and intent.

Solemnize us with the consciousness that beyond the appraisals of men, regarding what we do and say here, there falls upon our record the searching light of Thy judgment.

In these days of great peril and of critical decisions, as Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs face powers of darkness which have not Thee in awe, save us from all shortsighted policies whose reaping may bring a harvest of horror for our children's children. Give us to know clearly, and to follow faithfully, the things that belong to our peace, and to the peace of the whole world.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1963

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who art the fountain of all grace, the source of all true wisdom and goodness, Thou hast called us whose mortal lives so swiftly ebb away, to labor with Thee in the unfolding purpose of the ages, in causes whose coronation date is far beyond the dimensions of our calendars. Yet we may throw the stubborn ounces of our weight on the side of the invincible power which swings the stars in their courses and which in all the universe works for rightousness.

Ever near this forum of national debate with its differing

points of view and the din and clash of personal interests, may there be kept an altar of communion with the unseen reality where even as we toil in these fields of time a constant sense of the eternal may save us from spiritual decay, from moral cowardice, and from betrayal of the highest public good.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, who looketh not upon outward things, but upon the hidden things of the heart, out of which are the issues of life: In this age of automatic, mechanical devices, save us from regarding the boastful display of these symbols of physical power as the expressions of the chief achievements of a nation—ours or another. To a watching world, let us rather, by Thy help, set up an exhibition of honor untarnished, of promises sacredly kept, of human dignity defended, of freedoms unfettered, and of spiritual verities lifted above self-centered materialism devoted to surpassing others in a race for domination.

May this land of our hope and prayer display to a world that has lost its way the splendor of a peace which comes of purity and of a strength to simple justice due. God of our fathers, make it true. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1963

MOST GRACIOUS LORD, whose mercy endureth forever, with reverent step at the beginning of another week we pause at this wayside shrine of devotion reared so long ago at the Nation's birth by the architects of our freedom. As we come, our spirits are made solemn by the vastness of the

vistas revealed through the clear windows of prayer. Grant us such a vision of the amazing sweep of Thy purposes for all Thy children, even the least and the last, that we may be delivered from the sting of irritating trifles and be less agitated by the little annoyances which the daily pressures bring.

In a day when all the most precious values are imperiled by powers of darkness which would rob the individual of his birthright, arouse and stir us from our selfish love of comfort and the temptation to put safety and security first.

By the compulsion of these revolutionary times, drive us, we beseech Thee, from our too easy nest of cushioned complacency. Give us open eyes to see the momentous facts of our generation, and undergird us with courage to meet them, and dedicated intelligence to handle them.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1963

O Thou Searcher of Hearts, may those here commissioned by this free Nation to find the balm of peace for this ailing world, as they seek for truth, not evade the truth about themselves.

We confess that with all our surveying of national and world problems, we too often dread to know our own hearts, with their strange deceptions. As for this moment we look away from our mundane tasks to Thee, Thou Judge of all men, strip us of our illusions; create in us clean hearts, O God; and renew a right spirit within us.

In this, our brief working day, if there is any kindness we can show, may we not neglect or defer it. If there is any word we can speak as we strike a blow for righteousness and freedom, unfetter our lips.

Use us, we pray, as Thy channels to turn this hour of tumult into triumph for all mankind. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1963

ALMIGHTY GOD, turning to this altar of Thy grace, from all the divisive forces in the world about us, which tear and separate and push apart, we would that Thou shouldst send us out to our differing, and often our difficult work, hoping all things and enduring all things. Save us from giving to the tasks that await us anything less than our truest and best. Deliver us from any failure of self-control and from unworthy words spoken in haste or in passion.

With clear eyes may we see Thee as our Father, our fellows near and far as our neighbors, and ourselves as our brother's keeper.

In that vision splendid of Divine Fatherhood, and of human brotherhood, may we dream our dreams, fashion our lives, enact our laws, build our Nation, and plan our world until this shadowed earth, which is our home, rolls out of the darkness into the light and it is daybreak everywhere.

We ask it in the name of the One who is the light of the world. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1963

GOD OF THE CHANGING YEARS, yet who changeth not: Hallowing Thy name, we would submit ourselves to the test of Thy white, scorching purity with which nothing unclean can live, and to the rebuke of Thy absolute honesty, in the searching scrutiny of which no refuge of lies can stand.

By the judgment of that purity and that utter honesty deliver us, we pray, from the dangerous sophistries which afflict our day, elevating cleverness above goodness, and humor above honor.

We ask Thy benediction upon these servants of the Republic as they ascend this hill of solemn responsibility. Not lifting up their souls to vanity, nor swearing deceitfully, in all their councils keep them near the world's great altar stairs that slope through darkness up to Thee.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, in whose eternal peace, which passeth understanding, our fretful, restless spirits are quieted. The fierce tempests sweeping across our sadly sundered world leave us weary with watching and guarding the ramparts of freedom. These testing times find out our every weakness.

In the midst of our bewilderment and perplexity, we turn to the infinite calm of Thy changeless love, that we may find inner sustenance, wells of living water restoring our souls, and bringing serenity under strain, as in Thy name we battle for the truth.

In these confused times, when so often the props of moral support seem bending with the weight of secular ambitions, make plain to our understanding that legislative enactments alone are futile, and that except they be undergirded with a sustaining strength, not our own, we labor in vain to bring order out of the chaos which threatens to engulf the selfish schemes of willful men who have not Thee in all their thoughts.

We ask it in the Name which is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1963

God of all grace, Thou hast taught us that in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength. On this day of world prayer, when around the earth the incense of intercession arises from the agonized needs of Thy children, we, too, in this Chamber of governance, would climb the world's great altar stairs which slope through darkness up to Thee, the giver of all good.

We lift up our prayer for Thy endowment of spiritual might upon the godly women of all the churches in this our Capital City, who are reverently bowing this very hour at an altar set up in this white-domed shrine of each patriot's devotion, asking for Thy healing grace as the only balm in Gilead for the ills of this sundered and wounded world.

On this appointed day we would join the hosts under all skies in the mystery of united prayer by which more things are wrought than this world dreams of. We do not ask for Thy bestowal upon us of any material thing. We but ask that Thou wouldst make us men and women of pure hearts, purged from the mire of moral failure, free from the lure of selfish advantage, and of the prejudice which blinds our inner eyes and warps our judgment.

So above all, in turmoils without and within, day by day we would find—

A little place of mystic grace,
Of self and sin swept bare,
Where we may look upon Thy face,
And talk to Thee in prayer.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, enable, we pray, with the light of Thy wisdom and the strength of Thy might, those who in these fear-haunted times are in this Chamber entrusted with the stewardship of the Nation's life.

When it seems to us that our times are too perplexing and oppressive, and we are at our wits end, and that evil casts a depressing shadow over all our dreams for a fairer humanity, remind us that so it seemed to those who went before us, and that we can find, as they found, that the prayer for wisdom, for vision, for courage, and for the kindly light that leads, is the prayer that never goes unanswered.

So we dare ask for light upon one step ahead, faith to take one day at a time, and endurance in the darkness to wait in patience and confidence for the dawn.

We ask it in the name of the Holy One whose life is light. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, in this moment of quietness, hushing all discordant noises, that we may hear Thy voice, we would ponder the pattern our lives are weaving, as we bow in Thy searching presence, O God, unto whom all hearts are open, and from whom no desires or secrets are hid.

When in the light of Thy righteousness and truth we examine ourselves, our hearts are filled with regret and discontent, for we confess with sorrow that we have so often missed the shining marks of our high calling which beckon us even from the valley of defeat.

Yet even in all our failure to attain, we are lured by the haunting creed that life is capacity for the excellent. Help us to make it a pursuit of the best, and, casting aside all

counsels of despair, to press on with buoyant feet, firm in the faith that for ourselves, our Nation, and our world, the best is yet to be in a golden tomorrow for all mankind.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1963

O God, the might of them that put their trust in Thee, amid all the subtle dangers that beset us, we bow daily at this altar of prayer, lest we be tempted by the fatal folly of attempting to rely upon our own strength. In a world whose uncertainty we share about so many things, we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge from the beating storm but in Thee.

Our faith seems but a tiny thing; but just as through the smallest window streams the light of a vast and distant sun, so Thou, whose light fills all, canst flood the shadowed rooms of all our being—areas which are dark only because ws shut Them out.

With all that saddens and perplexes in this tortured yet splendid day, give us who toil at its tasks an inner radiance, humbly glad that in a world that lieth in darkness, we are called to be heralds of Thy light which even now is gilding the dawn.

We ask it in the name of the Master who bids us to let our light shine. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1963

God, our Father, amid all life's changing scenes, make us conscious of Thy overshadowing presence. Thou art the love that will not let us go, the love that followeth us all the way.

We touch the hem of Thy garment in the human love which hallows our own lives and sanctifies our homes—love which, at its best, bears witness to Thee and the divine love which alone is the balm able to cure the hurt of the world.

In the midst of crushing cares, relentless demands, and tormenting fears which the Nation's problems bring, may the quieting peace of Thy presence restore our jaded souls. Give truth to our words, sincerity to our hearts, and courage to our deeds in these times that are testing as by fire the treasure bequeathed to us. So may we in our day make patriotism beautiful with loyalty and dedication to this free land of our love and prayer. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1963

Our Father, God, who revealest Thyself in the true, the pure, and the lovely, grant us an awareness of Thy undergirding, taking the dimness of our souls away, as for demanding days we seek Thy guidance for the tangled ways we tread.

We come with gratitude for the love that our indifference cannot discourage, and for the patience that our wayward folly cannot exhaust. Though our faces are shadowed by the tragedies that darken the earth, we lift them in faith to the light that no darkness can put out.

In this day freighted with human destiny, vouchsafe to us, we pray, such a vision of our needy world with all its yawning divisions and its poisoning suspicions, and yet with its dawning sense of world brotherhood, that the decisions that are made here may never have to be reversed by those who come after us.

As we spend our years as a tale that is told, may it be to the last page a record of work well done, of duty faced without expediency, of honor unsullied, and of beckoning far horizons that we have not yet attained.

And when there comes the twilight and evening star and journey's end, and our work here is done, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1963

ETERNAL FATHER, in these awakening days of leaf and bud and flower, thrilling and throbbing with the vernal loveliness of April, we thank Thee for every sacrament of beauty of which our enraptured senses drink as we bend in wonder to the petaled cups held up by bushes aflame with Thee.

May the new glory of the arousing earth be but a parable of the things that are excellent, blooming in our risen lives as by the alchemy of Thy grace they become the gardens of the Lord.

Steady us, we pray, with the realization that beneath all the ugliness which hides the truth and beneath all the dark tragedy now plaguing the world, which could be so fair, there is the permanent good of Thy redemptive purpose for all mankind, to which we must be loyal if, at last, life is to be saved from frustration.

Whatever the future holds, may we face it calmly and in confidence, with the assurance that there lives the beauty that man cannot kill. May we hold that faith, and hold it fast. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1963

ALMIGHTY GOD, maker of all things, judge of all men: with solemnized hearts and reverent awe we bow at the beginning of this holy week, over whose grim days is the shadow of a cruel instrument of torture. With multitude under all skies, we have followed the hallowed footsteps of man's Best Man, of love's Best Love, the crystal Christ, as in lowly pomp He rode into His Nation's crowded capital. As we gaze on Him, in whose face Thy full glory is revealed, teach us anew the pretense of pride, the hollowness of self-centered ambition, the vanity of might, the deceit of riches, the ashes of fame.

In the set and steadfast countenance of that Servant of all, who rides on to die and to life no grave can hold, may we see anew the royalty of love and the majesty of meekness riding on, as His dreams which enthrall the heart are brought to earth—

"In mart and court and Parliament
The common good increase
'Til men at least shall ring the bells
Of Brotherhood and Peace."

In His spirit and vision we bring our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1963

O THOU FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, we turn unfilled to Thy exhaustless mercy, not in any assurance of our feeble hold of Thee, but in the assurance of Thy mighty grasp of us. By the benedictions of Thy renewing grace, may we be lifted above the mud and scum of mere things to the holiness of Thy beauty, so that even drab, daily duties will be edged with crimson and gold.

In this tumultuous day when the hammers of Thy purpose are beating out new shapes on the anvil of this chang-

ing world, may this dear land, founded in Thy name, be fashioned into a fitting instrument through which Thy will may be done on the earth. So may we, though but earthen vessels, become partners with Thee in a world distraught, uncertain, uprooted, groping, and in desperate need of a pattern for peace found only in Thy will, as there comes to earth the kingdom of redeeming love which casts out all fear.

We lift our prayer in Christ's spirit and name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1963

Our Father, from the noise and hurry of the world without and from the tyranny of selfish moods and motives within, we seek the peace of Thy changeless love. In this sacred week which reminds us that there is no gain except by loss, may we fear only to be disloyal to the best we know and to betray those who love and trust us and to disappoint Thy expectations concerning us.

Help us this new day to meet its joys with gratitude, its difficulties with fortitude, its duties with fidelity. Deliver us, we pray, from petty irritations which spoil the music of life and distort our perspectives. As once again in the pilgrimage of the year we come on the morrow to the place called Calvary—

> We stand atremble and afraid,
> On the small world that we have made;
> Afraid lest all our poor control,
> Shall turn and rend us to the soul;
> Afraid lest we shall be denied
> The price we hold our ragged pride;
> But in the end we pass all by,
> For a lone cross against the sky.

Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1963

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle, we pray Thee, in our hearts the true love of peace, and guide with Thy sure wisdom those who here take counsel for our Nation, and for the other nations of the earth.

In this opening moment of the new week's deliberations, help us to draw near to Thee in tranquillity, in humility, and in sincerity. Grant unto us, who at noontide seek Thy face, fervently to desire and obediently to fulfill all that is pleasing unto Thee. We would lay aside any selfish, partisan ambitions, so that with tallness of stature we may see—above the walls of our own prideful opinions—the common good.

As we play our part in days of destiny, with all mankind standing in the valley of decision, deliver us from all fear save that of failing Thee in Thy purpose for an earth redeemed from its sin and shame.

In the name and spirit of the Christ, we lift our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1963

ETERNAL FATHER, in whose will alone is our peace, Thou hast taught us that only in the reach of our love is the richness of our life.

We seek Thee as our fathers in every generation before us have sought Thee. We come with the confident assurance that we shall find, as they found, that if with all our heart we truly seek Thee, we shall surely find Thee.

Our needs throng our days as we turn in all our perplexities, from problem to problem. But our greatest need is of Thee. Unless we really find Thee as our help and hope

and are found of Thee, the laws of Thy physical universe will break our mortal existence and the laws of Thy moral realm will make mockery of our futile rebellion.

Our lives become significant only as they are linked with Thy eternal purposes and become the channels of Thy will. Thus, may our work become a sharing of Thine own which gladdens this sad world; and even the drab details of our earthly tasks which chafe us, and so often seem monotonous and meaningless, will flash and flame with unexpected glory as our labor becomes a part of Thy plan.

We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1963

O Thou God of our salvation, for a sense of whose presence our restless spirits ever yearn, for these moments we would hush our busy thoughts to silence as we seek to discern Thy will.

> 'Mid all the traffic of the ways,
> Turmoils without, within,
> Make in our hearts a quiet place
> And come and dwell therein.

For void of Thee, all is vanity and life itself is barren, joyless, robbed of its wonder, its dignity, and its beauty.

Even as draining duties, tied to the Nation's welfare, demand the utmost in time and energy of Thy servants here, in the fellowship of the world unseen more real than the tangible things about us, may there come to our questing spirits light out of darkness, peace out of discord, strength out of struggle, forgiveness out of guilt, and faith out of fear.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1963

ETERNAL GOD, who art the center and soul of every sphere, and yet to each trusting heart how near, in Thee we live and move and have our being. Let not any callousness on our part make Thy presence unreal to us. Wherever goodness is, or truth, or beauty, there Thou art.

Make sensitive our spirits, that knowing Thy grace and power, we may be cleansed and strengthened.

With all our imperfections and fallible judgments, grant unto us a compassion for others which understands and pities and forgives.

In their ministry in public affairs, may Thy servants here be so strengthened with might that the tyranny of majorities and the tirades of minorities may be equally impotent to sway them from the right, as Thou dost give them to see the right.

Undergird us all, we pray, wherever we stand in these days of destiny, with the glorious vision of eternal values which have supported men before us who sought ends too great to be reached in their own lifetime.

We ask it, O Father of our spirits, who hath been our dwelling place in all generations, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whom Thou hast freely given us all things. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, beyond the circle of whose brooding love we cannot drift in this or any other world: In the glory and vigor of yet a new morning we lift our heavy-laden hearts to Thee, as once more we set our faces toward waiting tasks and toils.

Through countless channels Thou dost seek our lives. At many a door Thou dost stand and knock, and call, if we would but heed the gentle accents of Thy voice. Give us to know that to that patient knocking on the outside, the door can be opened only from the inside by our own hand. Among all the strident voices of this tumultuous day may we not miss the still small voice which alone—even in this Chamber, as we listen to it—can change our fear to faith and our cowardice to courage. Above our deliberations here, and in them, hearken to the prayers of our hearts, when in our highest moments we forget ourselves, and think of Thee. And in the name of Him who strengthens us by His grace shall be the power and the glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1963

O Thou God of grace and glory, in hours of commotion and confusion we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge from the stormy blasts but in Thee.

To Thee who knowest the secrets of our hearts, we commit ourselves and our Nation; we lift to Thee the moral chaos of our divided world, its spiritual fatigue, its restlessness of heart, its dark forebodings.

We acknowledge our share in all that is wrong in human relationships; our love of ease, our pride of race and place and possessions. Yet with all our falling short of the mark of our high calling, we thank Thee for the disturbing vision of the agonizing needs of Thy children who share with us the good earth, and for the increasing determination of our dear land not to be disobedient to that vision splendid of a redeemed and emancipated race.

Guide us, O Thou Great Jehovah, as we fashion our policies and our actions on Thy truth that humanity is one and that Thou dost hold the whole world in Thy hands.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1963

O Thou whose throne is truth: From all the traditions which separate us and write our names in different camps of thought and conviction, we pause for the upward look which makes us one in solemn, yet glad, communion with Thee.

We are but frail creatures of dust, serving our brief day on the world's vast stage; but when a revealing sense of Thy eternity seizes us, we would set our little lives in the midst of Thy infinity and feel Thy completeness flowing around our incompleteness; and around our restlessness, Thy rest.

Facing together the tasks that center in this Chamber, we come asking that Thou wilt lead us to a rebirth of faith, because when faith dies, the deepest meanings of our lives fold up their tents and disappear. But if faith in ourselves, in others, and in Thee is regnant, then life again clothes itself with purpose and significance, and we have treasures worth living for and worth dying for.

May our faith in America at its best, as that faith is fed by the dedication and stamina of our own characters, reach out until we shall covet for the whole world its emancipating light in the midst of today's falsehood and darkness.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, trusting only in Thy mercy, bringing nothing of merit in our hands—our selfish hands which we confess too often yield to the temptation to grasp at gaudy baubles—we come in contrition at the shrine of grace, that all our waiting tasks may shine with Thy benediction.

Undergird those who here strive to serve the best interests of this Nation of our love and prayer, to face their national stewardship in the confidence of Thy guidance, in the joy of Thy approval, and in the gladness of Thy service, as our brothers' keepers.

May the great causes that will mold the future of human life on this little spinning island in the sky into the pattern of Thy desire and design for mankind, that will heal the open sores of this worn and weary world, that will foster good will, and at last will usher in an abiding peace, gain the supreme allegiance of our love and labor as we serve our fleeting day in these fields of time.

We ask it in the name of the Master of all good workmen. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, before ever our yearning needs have broken into speech in this forum of the Nation's will, Thou hearest even the secret sigh of our perplexed and fainting spirits.

Amid the earthquake, wind, and fire of this violent world, for this hallowed moment, with all voices hushed, we would be still and know that Thou art God.

In the fierce fight raging to maintain our own liberty and to make men free everywhere, we pray that, earthen

vessels though we are, we may be the channels of Thy holy purpose to break all slavish shackles which bind and degrade the dignity of Thy children.

Here, today, may some revelation of Thy light fall upon our darkness, some guidance from Thy wisdom lead us out of our bewilderment. In this supreme battle of the ages as we wrestle with the powers of darkness, open Thou our eyes, that we may see not only the encircling battalions of evil, but also on the hills about us the chariots of God and the horsemen thereof.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1963

God of all grace, we thank Thee for all Thy mercy and all Thy mercies, and for the beauty which covers the earth, for the love which hallows our homes, for the joy which springs from work faithfully done.

As we bow before Thee at this altar which our fathers reared, open our eyes, we pray, to the faults and failings which mar our democracy. Make us conscious of the evils in ourselves, that we so readily detect and condemn in others. Make us tall enough for these testing days. Cast out our pride—national, racial, and personal.

Join us to those who labor to bring sense and system to this disordered globe, and grant that our eyes may yet look upon a world that has at least found a path leading toward the plains of universal peace—

> When all men's good shall be each man's rule,
> Through all the circle of the golden years.

We ask it in the Master's name and in His spirit. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1963

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away: Age after age the living seek Thee, and find that of Thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by Thy guidance, and rested on Thy compassion; still to their children be Thou the cloud by day and the fire by night.

Draw us from base content, and set our eyes on far-off goals. Keep us at tasks too hard for us, that we may be driven to Thee for strength. Deliver us from fretfulness and self-pity; make us sure of the goals we cannot see and of the hidden good in the world. Open our eyes to simple beauty all around us, and our hearts to the loveliness and nobility men hide from us because we do not try enough to understand them.

In a world such as this we do not ask that Thou wilt keep us safe, but that Thou wilt keep us loyal to the royal in ourselves.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1963

O God, our help and our hope, guardian of these pilgrim days, the hurrying pace of our fleeting years frightens and awes us. Strained and tense with the pressures of our burdened lives, we seek the shelter and strength that undergird us as around our restlessness flows Thy rest, in the fulfillment of the promise that Thou wilt keep in perfect peace the mind that is stayed on Thee.

As for this moment of quiet we look away from ourselves and our tasks to Thee, Thou judge of all men, strip us, we beseech Thee, of our disabling illusions, and chasten us for our willful blindness. As the titanic global battle for men's

minds rages, may we be strong and of good courage and enabled by Thy grace not only to defend the truth that alone can make all men free, but to live it, as well.

In the performance of this day's duties may we ascend the hill of the Lord with pure hearts and clean hands. Even as sometimes we may question the judgment of comrades by our side, save us from impugning without cause their sincerity and integrity.

We ask it in the Name of the Holy One who warns us: *Judge not, that ye be not judged.* Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1963

Most merciful God, Father of all who dwell upon the earth, Thou knowest our necessity before we ask, and our ignorance, limitations, and fallible judgment in asking. Have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon our infirmity; strengthen us in all noble impulses; and daily increase in us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and true godliness. Dowered with privileges and with the stewardship of power as no other nation, may our high estate be to us as Thy call to put willing hands of help under the weak and exploited, that through the potent ministry of this Nation, where the people rule, all peoples of the earth may be aided in their quest for more abundant life. We ask it in the name of the One whose life is the light of men. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1963

Lord God Almighty, who amidst the shifting sands of time standest sure, and whose throne is forever steadfast though often obscured by earthborne clouds, from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.

O Thou light that followest all our way, we would yield to Thee the flickering torch of our doubts, our fears, our willfulness, and our moral failure.

At this high altar in the temple of public stewardship, we thank Thee that daily we may find:

A little place of mystic grace,
Of self and sin swept bare,
Where we may look upon Thy face
And talk to Thee in prayer.

Hear the prayer we bring, that we may maintain in ourselves fidelity to our possible best, knowing that in such testing days as these, of those to whom much has been given, much will be required. Lift us to greatness to match these days. In Thy providence may this dear land of our hope and prayer, with all its privilege and power, be the quarry whence shall be fashioned the white stones of a new order whose alabaster cities shall gleam undimmed by human want and woe.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1963

O God, our Father, who desirest truth in the inward parts, in the white light of whose presence all our motives stand revealed, for this hallowed moment, turning aside from our divisive loyalties and our party cries, we would bow humbly in a unity of spirit with a vivid realization of our oneness in Thee.

Closing the door of prayer upon the outer world with its tumult and shouting and its unpredictable trends, and standing now in the searching light of Thy holiness, we know ourselves for what we are—petty and proud creatures who too often seek their own wills and whims, in spite of the polished

courtesies and noble professions with which we approach Thee.

Cleanse the inner fountains of our hearts, we beseech Thee, from all defiling foulness and from the secret sin of pretense. In tense days, when the words that are uttered within these walls may affect the uttermost parts of the earth, fit us faithfully to protect the Republic from outward aggression and subversion, and from the treason of betraying the eternal principles which are the foundation stones of our national existence.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1963

Almighty God, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and nations, in this valley of decision in which all men stand, endue with Thy wisdom our fallible minds. Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom.

Thou knowest that we desire nothing for ourselves that we do not crave for all mankind—a chance to be freemen. In the midst of deliberations that concern fearful forces—which, if not harnessed by mutual good sense and good will, may utterly destroy—give us powers of discernment great enough that the keys of new power may be used to open doors of plenty and of more abundant life for those in our own land and those in lands under all skies whose lot is meager and hard.

Yet, no matter how fearful the cost, may no awesome threat cause us to shrink from taking our full part in preventing serfdom from dominating the earth.

May a constant sense of the eternal save us from spiritual decay, from moral cowardice, and from any betrayal of the highest public good.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1963

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, and in the earth, and in the hearts of men, hallowed be Thy name. Give us, we beseech Thee, the lowly and humble heart emptied of presumptuous pride which is the only shrine where any altar pleasing to Thee can be raised.

Lead us to the still waters, to the elixir of the springs by the wayside which alone can save us from spiritual impoverishment, from the numbness of routine, from cynicism and bitterness of spirit. Through the sincere expression of differing appraisals in this free forum, may the final wisdom that charts the Nation's course in these perilous times be higher than our own—

Set our feet on lofty places,
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christlike graces
In the fight to set men free;
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, in whose merciful yet just hands is the destiny of Thy children, and whose final appraisals we, who see but through a glass darkly, cannot discern clearly, help us to live and act as if each new day were to be the last with which we would be entrusted with the stewardship of life, knowing that—

The busy tribes of flesh and blood
With all their cares and fears,
Are carried downward by the flood
And lost in following years.

Yet, as life on this brief earth stage is granted us, save us from living on a small scale in a great day, and from toying with the tiny when we ought to be lured by the titanic.

In tempestuous days, in the midst of flaming national agitations, grant us the calm wisdom that will perpetuate for all the future the vision of unity in diversity, which is the pulsing heart of free government.

Even amid the fierce fires of national and global contention and division, may all barriers to brotherhood be burned away, as we—as citizens of one commonwealth—choose for the ruling passion of our hearts to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee, our God.

In the dear Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1963

Eternal Spirit, who in the perspective of the long years, in spite of man's blundering, dost bring forth Thy righteousness as the light and Thy judgments as the noonday: As servants of the public weal, we pause amid draining demands to acknowledge Thy sovereignty and to pray for courage to attempt, power to achieve, and patience to endure.

In this temple of a free people's will, wilt Thou guide with the spirit of understanding these public servants—the few among the many—lifted by their fellows to high pedestals of commanding influence.

By their words and counsel may they bring healing for the open sores of the Nation and of the world.

Forbid that when radiant human hopes are flaming in the skies, we should be blinded by the smoke of our own campfires. Save us from giving ourselves to the dead past, rather than to the living future.

We ask it in the name of the Christ, whose truth is marching on. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1963

O God of all life and light, whose constant care brings the gift of sweet refreshment in sleep, restoring the frayed edges of fevered concern, we are grateful for today's fresh beginning and for this reverential pause before the pressures of demanding hours lay their stern hands upon us.

In our hearts as we come is the earnest prayer for ourselves that we may be emptied of all ugly prejudices and unworthy motives that hinder us from being the healing channels for the good Thou dost desire and will for our common humanity.

Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from an easy belief in legislative substitutes for personal character. Grant us this day light to guide us, courage to support us, and the boundless compassion of love to unite us.

We lift our prayer in the name of Jesus, Saviour of men. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1963

Our Father, God, in all the loveliness of this June day our hearts are singing, "This is my Father's world!"

As the shadows of the night flee away, we thank Thee for the dawn, as it softly steals across the darkened earth. Our glad hearts rejoice for roads made clear again, for fields revealed again, for the song of the birds, for the glory of the gardens, for the beauty of rivers, lakes, and hills—and most of all, for the love-lit faces of dear ones in the homes we hallow.

Make us partakers of the sacrament of light, sharing the mystic secret of the very soul of things. We come with hearts grateful for the effulgence that no darkness can put out, for beacons flaming in the sky blazing with the radiance

of truth, and love, and duty, in whose glory we walk and in whose shining splendor we toil. Steady us with the assurance that our labor for a new earth, where all the chasms separating man from man will be bridged by eager cooperation, is not in vain if we but open our minds and hearts to that life which is the light of men, and if we but listen to a voice, not faint and far in fields of Galilee, but passionately pleading, calling to us in today's want and woe—

"O brothers, I make the world one kin,
Open your hearts and let Me in,
That the reign of My Father may begin."

We ask it all in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1963

O Thou God of our salvation, consecrate with a sense of Thy presence the way our feet may go, that the roughest places may be made plain. We pray for Thy servants who stand on the national pedestals of this Chamber of governance, that—scorning narrow partisanship—they may be eager prophets of the new dawn of righteousness which reddens the eastern sky, even when so much evil is loose in the world.

Inspire us, we pray, to follow the shining example bequeathed us from the past in the virtue and valor of those whose records within these legislative Halls have helped to make the greatness of our free land. Hasten the glad day when the sadly severed kingdoms of man's allegiance shall become the one and radiant kingdom of Thine all-embracing love.

We pray in the Redeemer's blessed name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1963

LORD OF ALL BEING, throned afar, Thou who art the center and soul of every sphere, yet to each loving heart how near; nearer than the hands and feet that serve us, nearer than the problems that front us, nearer even than the comrades who walk beside us.

O Thou who art the author of liberty, as our grateful Nation comes once more to the birthday of its daring advent among the established governments of the world, may this latest natal day of the state find in the hearts of all true Americans a vow, registered in heaven, that no sacrifice will be avoided as too costly to defend and preserve our freedom as diabolical forces that have not Thee in awe plot their destruction.

For the triumph of the global crusade now raging, whose victory will mean that men everywhere will live in freedom, we set up our banners; and in this Thy glorious day, we lift our living Nation a single sword to Thee.

We ask it in the name of the One whose truth makes all men free. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1963

FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, away from Thee, we dwell in darkness and death. In the midst of world conditions that baffle us, swift social currents which sweep away our strongest bulwarks, we confess that the world in which our lot is cast is too much for us; we must find a strength not our own, or our feet will slip in this whelming flood.

To Thy sustaining grace in this hallowed moment we would lift up the thronging questions which haunt us day and night, the grievous problems affecting and afflicting

Thy children in all the world, for which our human wisdom finds no answer.

We pray that Thou wilt gird us to heal the divisions which shorten the arm of our national might in these momentous times. Spurning and scorning the poisonous weeds in the garden of democracy, may we rejoice only in the fair and fragrant virtues of honor untarnished.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 15, 1963

Our Father, God, this wayside shrine of prayer, set up so long ago by our fathers, we step aside from the crowded highway, with its clamant voices, that we may become conscious of Thee, knowing that we have been assured by the experience of the ages that if with all our hearts we truly seek Thee, we shall surely find Thee.

Only when our vision is cleared and corrected by far horizons can we see the transient in the light of the everlasting.

Set us at tasks with a strength that is not our own, with serenity and calm to meet an agitated world, with an unruffled kindness, and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul.

Especially at the beginning of this week of national remembrance, set aside by the official decree of our free Republic, we lift up to Thy tender mercy the plight of coerced peoples, once free, but now in the fetters of an arrogant tyranny. In this chamber, dedicated to government by consent of the governed, we hear the moaning of the captives and their wail, "How long, O Lord, how long?" and we here vow never for expediency's sake to stifle Thy stern demand: "Let my people go."

We ask it in the name of the living Christ, whose truth brings deliverance to the captive. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1963

O God, our Father, we are grateful for the unquenchable impulse for things high and holy which Thou hast planted within us. As in the heat and burden of this epochal day we are called to serve the Nation and all struggling humanity, lead us for Thy name's sake to the abiding springs of fresh hope and confidence for a better tomorrow, a new faith in Thy goodness which faileth never, and in the unrealized possibilities of Thy erring children, in spite of the stupid folly by which they have devastated the good earth Thou hast given and marred the costly works of their own hands.

We pray for fidelity not to shirk the issues of these momentous days. Where our deeds can help to make this a fairer world, where our words can keep despondent men on their feet, where our prayers can hasten the coming of a cleansed social order in which Thy will shall be done among men, let us speak and act and pray.

We lift our prayer in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1963

God of all mercy, bowing at this altar of Thy sustaining grace, we come vividly conscious that we need not turn back to bygone centuries to hear Thy voice, as if Thou dost speak to men no longer in the living present. Give us receptive ears to hear Thy imperial imperatives above the noise of crashing human systems. In and through the change and confusion of these bewildering times, we are made confident by the divine promise, "As thy day, so shall thy strength be." Thou knowest that our needs are many, but our greatest need is of Thee. Through the lips that speak in this forum of freedom, above all differences of judgment,

may there be heard by a listening world, smarting under its grievous, self-inflicted wounds, the solemn summons to men of good will of all races to a new commonwealth of now sundered peoples, in which power shall be held as a sacred trust dedicated to the common good.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 22, 1963

GOD OF OUR FATHERS: At another week's beginning, from the tumult of an angry, agitated world, we seek the sanctuary of Thy overshadowing presence, not that we may escape from the world, but that we may turn with confident spirits and quiet minds to the perplexing maze of its tangled problems.

In these challenging days, when so many hopes are being dashed to the ground, so many once radiant dreams dimmed, help us to rest our minds in Thee and in the strength of the everlasting verities and values which nothing can shake.

As we play our part in this age on ages telling, make us large hearted in helping and cautious in criticizing. Keep us from unkind words and from unkind silences, yet sure and strong in the faith that is in us, whenever and wherever we are called to take our stand. Join us to the seers and prophets of the past who have gone ahead of the lagging crowd to climb the beckoning hilltops of humanity's hopes.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1963

O THOU WHOSE MERCY NEVER FAILETH, in these epochal days we would be the servants of Thy will.

With the gaze of the Nation and the world fixed upon this Chamber of governance, we would solemnly reaffirm, in this dedicated moment, the reverent declaration of those who long ago with intrepid courage and with radiant hope stepped upon the shores of this new land—"In the name of God, amen."

We thank Thee for the things that unite us: the passion for freedom; the hatred of tyranny; the steadfast belief that in Thy providence a purged America has come to the kingdom for such a time as this; for the vision splendid of a redeemed earth when gnawing hunger and blighting superstition, and needless pain and misery, will be but haunting memories. We thank Thee for the things that unite us.

For the triumph of the global crusade now raging, whose victory will mean that men everywhere will live in freedom, we would here set up our banners with the prayer that our imperfect service may express something of Thee before life's little day ebbs out and the night comes down and our work is done.

We ask it in the name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the light. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1963

Our Father, God, who art in heaven, on the earth, and in all Thy works, and who dwelleth in contrite hearts who give Thee room, our glad and grateful hearts are singing "This is my Father's world, He shines in all that is fair, He speaks to me everywhere."

We pause in the midst of thronging duties and confused issues to commune with Thee, source of goodness and beauty and truth. May we know no glory but the supreme satisfaction of rendering to the Nation and to the world selfless service unsullied by base motives. Keep us free, we pray,

from pessimism, cynicism, and despair, that we may be used by Thee to advance on earth Thy kingdom of love and freedom, of joy and peace.

With the golden gift of this new day, we pledge at this white altar of devotion integrity of character and clean hands in the high and holy calling as servants of the Republic in a day which calls for our utmost and best.

For Thy name's sake. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 29, 1963

O Lord and Master of us all, whatever our name or sign, before we plunge into the baffling confusion and thorny problems within the walls of this Chamber drenched with history, here at the hearthstone of Thy mercy we would renew our inner strength, for collectively and individually we stand in need of courage and fortitude and stability.

We come to Thee, soiled by the world's common life, with all its delusive allurement, and in dire need of Thy cleansing grace.

In preparation for the weighty responsibilities Thy servants here must face in this and the coming weeks, may they be stripped of pride and made humbly receptive to Thy will.

May the temporary triumph of party and the transient success of our individual desires be surrendered to the true welfare of the Commonwealth.

As we thus pray at noontide of this new day, come down Thine own secret stairway to our own deepest needs, as we open our hearts to Thee. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1963

O THOU GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, when with each new day Thou dost spread the mantle of light about us as purple morning breaketh, fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight, dawns the sweet consciousness we are with Thee.

We would yield our flickering torch to the flame of Thy redeeming love, facing whatever the day may bring, sustained by a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe.

Strengthen us, we pray, to carry our share of the burden of mankind's climb to the kingdom of Thy love and to the radiant realm where Thy will shall be done in the Nation and in all the earth. Toward that shining goal our puny mortal strength is unequal to the tests and tasks of the decisive days which are upon us. We dare not trust our own devices and counsels. Because Thy completeness flows around our incompleteness, from the lowly earth where our weary feet so often stumble and falter, may the exultant notes of our faith and hope rise like the lark on morning wing, singing its song at heaven's gate.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1963

O THOU GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, amid the national and global concerns which drain our strength and devour our hours, somehow, sometime, lest we lose our way, the necessity is upon us to take time for commerce and communion with the unseen and eternal where, in an oasis of quietness, there may be daily restored the inner resources of our pressured lives.

May the obtrusive secularism which assumes that we can nourish our souls on bread alone—the materialism which blocks the door of our hearts—be pushed back and the way cleared, that the highest and best may enter and meet no obstacle.

For those who here serve as representatives of the people who have put their trust in them, we pray for deliverance from the subtle lures of office and from the arrogance which lurks in power, knowing that when we forget Thee, whatever we attempt to build or to frame is labor lost, and that only in Thy will is our peace and is our victory.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1963

Our Father, God, turning to Thee, we would write at the start of every day's record, "In the beginning God," for more and more we solemnly realize that every national issue is, at its heart, spiritual.

A fear-haunted world has watched with wistful hope as in a faraway capital, with its background of splendor and terror, a step has been taken back from the brink of mutual destruction. Thou knowest that in the memorable hour which marked the signature of nations to a document which carries the deepest concern of the continents and isles of the sea, mixed with the ink which our free Republic has contributed to the signing of the solemn compact is the fervent hope and prayer that no betrayals will ever wipe from the darkened sky the rainbow which now arches the heavens. As in the days to come, in the process of advice and consent, here in this Chamber is weighed the possible gain and the risk, may this body, seeking naught but the truth and the safeguarding of the dignity of freedom in all the earth, be

the instrument of Thy will for preserving our birthright and for the healing of the nations.

Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1963

O THOU GOD OF ALL THE EARTH AND OF EVERY WHIRLING SPHERE: Groping with uncertain steps, we turn to Thy light, for in Thee is no darkness at all. Save us, we pray, from the frustrations of mistaken magnitudes, as too often we measure the long leagues of Thy far horizons with today's short inches. Open our eyes to the emancipating truth that the clouds are lies and the blue sky is the truth.

Thou knowest that these days, fraught with destiny, are forcing grave decisions that concern terrific forces of nature which, if not harnessed by mutual advantage or, better, by good will, may incinerate the earth and destroy man and all his works. Endue with compassion and understanding and with prudent caution which will make them harmless as doves, but wise as serpents, those who as trustees of freedom speak face to face with those whose ruthless ambitions would enslave the earth.

In all our dealings with others, make this dear land of our hope and prayer worthy of the ancient benediction: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who says, 'Your God reigns.' "

We pray in the name and the spirit of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1963

O Thou Father of our spirits, who hearest prayer, and to whom all flesh shall come, breathe upon us now the benediction of Thy holy calm as we turn from our feverish ways. In Thy light only can we regard our common tasks, not as drab burdens to be borne, but edged with crimson and gold. Create in us the splendor that dawns when hearts are kind.

Give us a sobering realization that our individual attitudes go to make the national and international climate of the dangerous days in which we live. Make us, we pray Thee, willing partners in the garden of good will, cultivating the flowers of appreciation and understanding which at last will climb over all dividing walls and make the fields of all nations blossom as the rose. In the thunder of these tumultuous times, when the hammers of Thy purpose are beating out new shapes on the anvil of the world, especially do we ask that this dear land of ours may be more and more forged and fashioned into an instrument through which Thy will, at last, will be done on the earth.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1963

O Thou God of the living, and of the living dead. From all the maddening maze of things that press, we pause for a hushed moment at this altar of Thy grace, vividly conscious of how swiftly and often how suddenly ebbs out life's little day.

Thou knowest the sadness that grips our spirits as we come this shadowed day, mourning the passing from this mortal stage of a public servant whose stalwart form but brief hours ago stood in his accustomed place in this free forum he loved,

and lifted up his voice for measures his conscience told him were in the best interests of the Republic. Now that voice is stilled, as once again, in the broken fellowship of this storied body, our startled hearts are saying—

> We hear it each and all—
> A song of those who answer not
> However we may call.
> We see them as of yore,
> Who walk with us no more.

We thank Thee for the valiant stewardship rendered with fidelity to the Nation by Thy servant, ESTES KEFAUVER, as he played his part with ability and dedication in epic times.

We bear witness that he was never tonguetied by the selfish, yet gilded, lies which threaten to eat out the national fiber and caliber. What he has written, he has written as he sought to expose devious evils by letting in the light of day.

Outside these hallowed walls, where so long he served, we glimpse a legion of friends his genial nature bound to him in a loyalty strong as steel.

Grant, we pray, the consolations of Thy grace to the deaf companion of the strenuous, yet challenging years, and to each member of the stricken family who sits this hour in a bowed circle of grief.

So teach us to number our remaining days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, and at last, like him whose potent voice will be heard no more, may we finish our course in faith, having fought the good fight.

We ask it in the name of the Master he acknowledged as Lord of all. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, bowing at this wayside shrine where spirit with spirit may meet, we thank Thee for the ministry of prayer through whose mystic doors we may escape

from the prosaic humdrum of "day-by-day-ness" and, lifted to a wider perspective, return illumined and empowered.

As today in the setting of his southern home in the State which gave him to the Nation all that is mortal of an honored Member of this body who fell at his post is laid to rest, and as towering figures thus disappear from our sight and side, we pray that from the cloud of witnesses which surround us the mantle of those who refused to barter their convictions for any price that could be offered may fall upon the shoulders of all in the Nation's councils who are striving in the most difficult and dangerous days the Republic has known to make our free land as great in virtue and truth as she is mighty in power.

For Thine is the power and the kingdom, for whose coming we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1963

God of all the races and all the nations, our best contrivings, our wisest plans, will stand out as but mute monuments of futility in a valley of dry bones unless upon them all Thou shalt breathe the breath of life.

If, at last, chastened by Thine immutable laws, a sadly sundered world is to leave behind exploitations, recriminations, suspicions, and hatred, and march together, no matter how long the way, toward a fairer earth in which nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor learn war any more, then only Thy pillar of cloud and of fire can lead to that golden era.

In this high hour of dawning hope, when the fear-haunted eyes of untold millions see above the mushrooming terror a faint rainbow which speaks of deliverance from the threatening scourge, we lift to Thee our fervent prayer, "Send out Thy light and truth, let them lead us; from the

city of destruction, let them bring us to Thy holy hill of life and peace."

In the ever-blessed name of the One who came to bring life more abundantly to all who walk His way. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1963

ETERNAL SPIRIT, as another dawn has grown into the fullness of noontide, so let Thy light banish all shadows of doubt and fretful unrest from our own hearts, that, as we turn to the urgent calls that wait at our elbows, we may find and follow Thy purpose for our lives throughout this day. May we be strong to do the things worth doing and to put aside those that are unworthy, belittling, or base.

Give us, we pray, a compelling sense of the oneness of all humanity, so that the decisions made here may never have to be reversed by those who come after us. Thus, at last, may we be counted by grateful generations who will inherit a kindlier earth among the architects of the final parliament of peace and plenty, in which every race and kindred and tongue will find their rightful place.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1963

THOU GREAT COMPANION OF THE SONS OF MEN, amid all the things our restless spirits seek, this quiet moment in the midst of the day's demands reminds us that Thou offerest Thyself to be found of us if with all our hearts we truly seek Thee. Give us to see and feel that prayer is yielding ourselves to be invaded, exalted, and commanded by the Infinite One and by standards higher and holier than our own unaided, fitful, faltering lives.

Come to us in the common affairs that entangle us; meet us in the thorny problems that confront us; make Thy highways through the avenues of sense. Clothe Thy glory in the earthen vessels of our feeble flesh; breathe through the things that are seen the peace of the unseen and eternal.

Without stumbling and without strain, may we follow the gleam of Thy will until the day is ended and our work is done.

We bring our prayer in the ever-blessed name of the Master who did always the things that pleased Thee. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1963

O Thou God of all grace, again with a new day we bow at this altar the Founding Fathers built at the threshold of daily deliberation, when in the ministry of public affairs, before the chosen servants of the people talk to each other, they may listen to Thee. And so, with distracting public problems haunting this forum of debate, some strange, sad, joyous yearning, unsatisfied ever, bids us put down whatever is in our hands, be they tools or weapons, that we may look toward the far horizons of Thy guiding providence. That stretched-out horizon reminds us constantly that every question which clamors for solution in our homeland has to do with the pressing problems which concern Thy children under all skies.

In this temple of democracy save us, we beseech Thee, from the perversion of power that has not Thee in awe. Upon the altar of our freedom may there ever be lifted the offering of an humble and contrite heart.

In these days freighted with destiny for us and for the world, as keepers of the sacred flame may we fail not man nor Thee.

Hear our prayer in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, in this searching moment we would that the bewildering voices of the world about us and the clamor of wordy arguments be hushed. In the solemn sense of Thy presence, our arrogance is rebuked and our pride of opinion is mocked, as we confess that, at best, we but grope in the darkness; that our knowledge is partial, and our judgments fallible.

We would yield ourselves to Thee as we are, with all our failure, our ignorance, and our self-will, and yet with all the climbing aspirations of our better natures.

Break down the narrow barriers of our minds that shut us out from fellowship and understanding with any of Thy children. Teach us to value beauty of heart or strength of brain in any strand of our common humanity, that we may become workers together with Thee in binding the races of mankind into the perfect unity that will belt the earth with good will when Thy radiant kingdom comes.

In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1963

ETERNAL GOD, who art behind earth's darkest clouds and in them, in all our journey across this isthmus of mortality Thou art to us a shelter from the stormy blast and as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Undisturbed in our peace and poise by the shattering events which fling their angry fury across our world, we would maintain an inner sanctuary inviolate and still as we claim Thy promise, "I will keep that man in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Me."

And so, amid all the distractions of our complex modern life, in which we are called to play our part, keep our hearts

childlike and trustful, free from corroding cynicism, so that the gates of wonder, closed to the merely clever and conceited, may swing open on the hinges of humanity. Thus, may even stern duty turn to delight and statutes turn to songs, as in a victorious faith in the final enthronement of righteousness and truth, we confidently commit ourselves and our cause unto Thee, in whose will is our peace and our strength.

In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1963

O Thou God and Father of all mankind, under the gleaming dome of this legislative shrine of our free land, we bow this day with gratitude which a thousand tongues could not exhaust, for all America means to us and to the world.

In this melting pot of democracy, by Thy providence and purpose Thy children of all cultures and colors have come from the four corners of the earth, here to be fashioned and molded into a new race of emancipated men and women endowed with a costly birthright where no tyrant can molest or make afraid.

In these most dangerous days the Republic has ever known, subdue, we pray, all selfish clamor that amid our national confusion the voice of Thy guidance may be heard.

Thou who art the author of liberty hath taught us that the essence of our freedom is not in having rights, but in fulfilling them. In Thy light may there be revealed to this bewildered generation, with all its moral failures, that to insist on grasping for that which may be justly claimed, and then to use such blessings for self-gratification and indulgence, is but to prove that those thus oblivious to responsibility are unworthy of such inheritance. Make sensitive

the conscience of our citizenship, that when duty and responsibility crumble, our boasted rights go down with their walls; but that if our God-given birthright is a lighted candle in the lamp of our service to our fellows and to our Nation, then in our brief day we may be among the builders of better homes, of cleaner cities, and of a brighter world.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1963

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father, whose mercy faileth never, we lift the doxology of our grateful hearts for the bounty and beauty of the good earth that sustains us, for the blessings of home and family and friends, for work to do and zest in doing it, and for this free land in which our lot is cast—

> For the priceless gift of freedom,
> For the home, the church, the school;
> For the open door to manhood
> In a land the people rule!

We beseech Thee that Thou wilt go with Thy servants, here commissioned by the people, into the work of this new week, that they may find a strength not their own to undergird them, wisdom sufficient for the thorny problems that face them, and light enough upon the pathway just ahead to meet the searching demands of this anguished time.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1963

ETERNAL SPIRIT by whose word man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening: Even amid all the cruel tragedies which beset Thy children on this earth,

which could be so fair, may we discern the shining ascent which is leading upward to the City of God.

Set our feet, we pray Thee, with steadfast purpose day by day upon the glowing pathway of righteous duty and selfless service. In spite of suspicions, betrayals, animosities, and disillusionments, which plague the councils of men, still gird our hearts to seek peace and pursue it—a just peace that scorns all thought of expediency or appeasement of evil, that the sundered family of mankind at last may be bound by golden cords of understanding fellowship around the feet of the one God who is the Father of all.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1963

Our Father, God, we turn to Thee for refuge from the noise and hurry of the world without, and from the tyranny of selfish moods and motives within.

May we fear only to be disloyal to the best we know, to betray those who love and trust us, and to disappoint Thy expectations concerning us.

In a world where we see the dreadful penalties of senseless human separations, dedicate us in this baffled generation as builders of bridges across all the yawning gulfs which rend this sadly divided earth.

Deliver us, we pray Thee, from petty irritations which spoil the music of life and distort our perspectives. Bring us to the ending of this day unashamed, and with a quiet mind.

We ask it in the name of Him who is the life and the way. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, from the trivialities of small concerns that irritate and frustrate, we turn to Thee, that we may regain a sense of the immensities and of the vast consequences of questions which cry for decisions on the most commonplace days and ways.

In all our dealings with matters of public weal, save us from posing as oracles of a righteousness and a wisdom we do not possess. With our paucity of knowledge, keep us from superficial judgments, lest we, too, be unjustly judged.

In such an hour in human relationships, save those who must speak for this Nation set upon a hill from agitation without vision, passion without poise, and heat without light.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1963

O THOU JUDGE OF ALL MEN, in the fateful days which loom ahead for the Republic and for the world, we ask Thy enlightening grace upon the Members of this forum of our free land, which in the eyes of all the earth stands now in the valley of decision.

Thou who dost hate tyranny and any coercive fettering of the free will, hast made the mind and heart of each individual legislator a sacred inner closet to which the door is shut from all threats without, and where, in that hidden judgment hall, each steward of the Nation's welfare weighs the evidence, and then, even in a crowded chamber, deliberates and decides alone.

Give us such faith in the mental and moral integrity of those who by our side must face the same test and appraise the same testimony, that there will never be any doubt that divergent convictions grow out of the same pure patriotism.

Strengthen our belief that what is best for our America under God is best for the whole world, for Thou knowest that we have no dream of good for men and women and little children in our dear land that we do not passionately desire to share with all Thy children, of every race and kindred, beyond all the frowning frontiers of this now divided earth.

We ask it in the name of the Christ whose coming kingdom will unite all the sons of men. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1963

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, with a sense of our utter inadequacy when left to our own devices, as we face tasks that tower above our power to achieve, we bow for the strengthening benediction of our morning prayer.

In this battle of the ages, between the darkness and the light, to which everything that is said or done in this Chamber is related, we can but pray that as those here commissioned to serve the Nation face their God and their conscience, with mankind's future at stake, the final verdict of all their deliberations will result in defeat for the darkness, and victory for the light—for the light is Thine, and in its glowing radiance there is life and joy, peace and plenty, for Thy children under all skies, when at last Thy will shall be done on the earth as it is in heaven.

We ask it through riches of grace, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1963

ETERNAL SPIRIT, before each day's deliberations, we bow at this altar of prayer, because in our hearts we know that the destiny of this Nation is inseparably bound up with

loyalty to its national heritage. That heritage is rooted in Thee. All our beginnings proclaim that creed. Apart from faith in spiritual verities, America has no meaning relevant to today's world situation.

Stab our spirits broad awake to a compelling realization that the greatest spiritual task that confronts the lawmaking bodies of the land is in interpreting for these times in which we are called to serve the awesome meaning of the motto, inscribed on the money which crosses our counters of trade, "In God We Trust," and in applying that stupendous trust to our national and international life.

So make our hearts strong whatever the future may hold. We ask in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1963

O Thou God of light and truth, from the baseness of our own hearts we turn to the crystal purity of Thy own holiness.

From the vain deceits of the uncertain world in which we live, we would turn from the tyranny of drab details to the shining splendor of the heavenly vision which haunts us, and to which we dare not be disobedient. As we bow in Thy presence, there steals into our hearts the calm confidence that Thou holdest the whole world in Thy hand in the firm clasp of a love that never faileth.

In that assurance—not of our feeble hold of Thee, but of Thy mighty grasp of us—may we march with conquering tread in the gathering armies of understanding and friendship whose armor is the shield of Thy truth and whose sword is the might of Thy love which will not let us go, and against which all the spears of hate cannot ultimately prevail.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1963

O THOU GOD over all, blessed forever more: Amid the seething strife which mars the earth and still builds its walls of separation, we are grateful for any flicker of light which sends its ray down the future's broadening way.

Whatever be the vexatious problem we are called to face in this volcanic day, we thank Thee for this white altar of prayer, reared at the gates of the morning which speaks to us ever of our final reliance on the supreme spiritual forces which alone abide, and on which our salvation in the end depends.

Before the toil of a new day opens, as busy hours await, we bring to Thee the meditations of our hearts; may they be acceptable in Thy sight. May our compassion help to heal the open sores of the world as we serve the present age, our calling to fulfill.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1963

GOD OF ALL MANKIND, how great Thou art. How weak and wayward we are. Yet Thou art to us a quickening presence, a sustaining power, a refuge from the tumult and confusion of the world. We thank Thee for the gift of freedom which we have received from our fathers and for the hope of freedom which we cherish for the generations following. May the faith of our fathers sustain the dreams of our children.

In all our crucial decisions our Nation faces, make us our brothers' keepers in a compassion as wide as needy humanity. As we thus follow Thy mandate, through Thy mercy, defend us from all the deceits of enemies who have not Thee

in all their thoughts for the solemn summons of this fateful week.

God be in our heart and in our understanding.

God be in our head and in our thinking.

God be in our eyes and in our looking.

God be in our mouth and in our speaking.

In the dear Redeemer's name, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, we would that this quiet moment of prayer will be an open gateway to the boundless resources of Thy renewing grace by which our jaded souls may be restored.

Grant us courage. Give us wisdom for the living of these days of momentous decision.

Measure us, we beseech Thee, with the challenge of our times, and make us worthy of those who in the dangerous yesterdays were strong and unafraid as they dared the scorn and wrath of evil men.

We lift to Thee our gratitude for the safe return to the homeland, and to his post of strategic leadership, of the honored and dedicated President of this body, so vital in the life of the Republic. We rejoice in the opportunity which was his, and which he seized so effectively, to assure independent nations across the seas with whom we have close and friendly relations, and who with us are facing the complex problems of a swiftly changing world, that America cherishes nothing but good will for all mankind and the lifting of the levels of human betterment everywhere, and to march with them in a crusade for a just, worldwide peace among all men of good will.

May the deliberations and decisions registered in this historic Chamber be the channels of Thy eternal purpose as it is wrought out upon the earth.

We ask it in the spirit and the name of Him who is the Way and the Truth. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1963

FATHER OF LIGHT, whose universe is all law, yet all love, in a world that lieth in darkness, swept by the fitful winds of doubt and despair, blighted by suspicion and intrigue, we pause in this sheltered sanctuary to make sure that Thy light is not shuttered from our inner lives.

By Thy kindly light, as we follow it patiently and obediently, lead us and all men to a realm where, as a harvest of good will, peace will reign; to a kingdom of regnant human rights, where mouths shall not cry for bread; where hands and feet shall not be shackled; where speech shall not be silenced; where eyes shall not be bandaged, or minds darkened by falsehoods which hide the light of truth.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1963

FATHER OF ALL, whose righteous laws condemn and will at last break whatsoever bars Thy children from abundant life: In these days freighted with destiny, for whose decisions the future will judge us, by Thine enabling might may Thy servants here in the ministry of public affairs maintain their integrity unsullied by personal animosities, prejudices, or selfish ambitions.

And now as there looms the hour when for men and nations comes the moment to decide, to whatever decision come

those who here speak for this free land, this day in a choice between frowning risks on either side, may those who give their consent and those who withhold it alike be sustained by the supreme satisfaction that, in a grave crisis, they have done their full duty, and that in the face of trembling and fearful humanity their vote represents their patriotic judgment deserving well of the Republic.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1963

ETERNAL SPIRIT, Thou hast written Thy law in our hearts. In the brooding silence of this still moment, may open windows of faith flood our gloom with light, so that in Thy sunshine's blaze our day may brighter, fairer, be.

Dowered with privileges as no other nation, may the richness of our heritage be to us Thy call to clear the way for freedom, that through the potent ministry of our dear land, all the people of the earth may be blessed.

In the global decisions now facing the Republic, make us sensitive to any subtle attempts to lure us by promises of a false peace, and thus to compromise principle and betray the rights that are given by Thee to every individual on the face of the earth.

Amid all life's changes we ask "Thou who changeth not" to abide with us now and forever. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, we come seeking wide horizons around our noisy days. Through our cluttered lives we would clear a highway for Thy holy purposes. Join us, we pray, with the farsighted souls who, across the toiling years, have labored in

darkened valleys, yet have heralded the coming day and lifted men's eyes to the eternal hills.

Midst all the busy shuttles of legislation, as here is woven the fabric of law and order, shielding the life of our democracy, save us from being so enmeshed in the immediate mechanics of our tasks as to lose sight of the total pattern shown in the Mount of Vision.

Putting off the works of darkness, and putting on the armor of light, may our loins be girded and our lamps burning, and ourselves as men who watch for the coming of the kingdom of love and understanding for which we daily pray.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1963

O God, our Father, Thou art the shining presence at the altar of our hearts. For this hallowed moment, closing the doors of a noisy world with all its terror and alarm, at the week's beginning we come to this place of quietness and peace to meet with Thee, Thou who hast made us for Thyself.

As before Thee we search our own hearts, we are shamed by what we are, and yet lifted up by what is still within us to become. We confess the fickleness and folly which so often have disappointed us and Thee. Forgive us for smug satisfaction with ourselves and for cynical contempt of others.

May the mire of our moral failures prove but stepping-stones to our better selves. Purge our minds of the prejudices which separate us from others; cleanse our hearts of the uncleanness which blinds our eyes; make us worthy to take our place at the common table of humanity where

the bread of fellowship is broken and the wine of sacrifice is shared.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1963

O THOU WHO HEAREST PRAYER, to whom all flesh shall come, the inmost soul of us cries out for the living God. The hurrying pace of our fleeting years here frightens and awes us. So teach us to number our days, that we may fill swift hours with mighty deeds and lay up treasures beyond the reach of moth and rust.

If the glowing vision that once lighted our horizon has faded to somber shadows, even standing on the debris of our dearest dreams, may we be stabbed by a strengthening glimpse of divine resources, vista beyond vista, glory reaching out to further glory. Take Thou our faltering hands in Thine. Lead us on, o'er moor and fen, and crag, and torrent, till the night is gone and the day dawns.

In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1963

LORD OF ALL LIFE, whose light is true, whose warmth is love, we are grateful for the daily miracle of dawn which calls to holy dedication of renewed powers; for noontide, with its summons to play our part in a solemn day that demands the best from each of us. We thank Thee, too, for the quiet of twilight like bells at evening pealing, which bring whispers of the realm where, beyond these voices, there is peace.

In the busy hours of life's midday, so teach us to think and act and toil, that we may justify the lofty pedestal of

our privilege as we strive to open for each human being the gates of an equal opportunity and an equal chance to become the best it is in him to be.

Our eyes having seen the glory of a government of law, bring peace and prosperity within our own Nation. Give us a steadfast faith that a lawful order can be established for the whole world. In this faith, steel our hearts to march forward toward the clean world our hands can help to mold.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1963

ETERNAL GOD, as creatures of time and sense, with the fever of mortal days upon our spirits, with wistful longings which haunt the depth of our being, we turn to Thee who art from everlasting to everlasting.

We change with the changing days. We are fretted by every passing wind, tempest tossed and afraid; but Thou art the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Day by day in this Chamber, in the ministry of public affairs, those chosen by the people to speak and act for them face perplexing decisions affecting the lives and fortunes of untold millions who look to them for the wise word and the right action. Wilt Thou lift us all from the confusions and bafflements of these days into the unhurried calm of Thy presence and to the peace which is the gift of Thy grace, and the wisdom which is from above.

May the spiritual verities by which alone we really live, assert their sovereignty and ascendancy over our hearts and minds, as with unbroken vigil we keep the perpetual light of faith burning over the inner shrine of the soul. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1963

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in former times didst lead our fathers forth into this land, grant Thy grace to us, their children, in these days of destiny as we follow in their train.

As we serve the present age, may we prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and eager to be the instruments of Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure religion. Save the inner life of the Nation from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Imbue with the spirit of wisdom those who, in these crucial times, have been trusted with public responsibilities and authority. For the preservation of liberty, for the defeat of all tyranny, for the opportunity still to be free souls for the redemption of democracy from its flaws and failures, for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in all the world, we lift our hearts to Thee, O God of our salvation, as in the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1963

ETERNAL FATHER, in the midst of toiling days when the constant pressure of national decisions weighs heavily and takes its toll of bodies and spirits, we are grateful for quiet cloisters of peace and prayer where at an altar of contrition we may bow for Thy forgiveness and cleansing. Without Thee, our striving would be losing, for our strength is unequal to our tasks.

Here on this battlefield of ideas and commitments, help us to consecrate ourselves anew to the fulfillment of the aims and dreams of a new world of justice and equality, for which America's sons are even now dying on the far frontiers of freedom.

In today's anxieties and commotions, steady us with the certainty that though willful men imagine a vain thing and though the earth were removed and the mountains cast into the midst of the sea, the Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1963

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Give, we beseech Thee, to these servants of the commonwealth clear vision, clean hands, and pure hearts, as facing great tasks and grave responsibilities, they ascend this holy hill of the Nation's life.

Thou knowest that we long to see the spirit of the Master regnant in our common life—cleansing it from all that is unwholesome; sweetening every human relationship; composing the differences of class with class, race with race, and nation with nation; delivering from the lust for gain or power which narrows interest, crushes affection, and hardens the sympathies.

Work in us and in all men a miracle of grace and renewal. Steady our purpose to give the best that is in us, body, mind, and spirit, to the right that needs assistance, and against the wrong that needs resistance. Grant us to pass this day in glad service and in inner peace, without stumbling and without stain.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, frail children of earth's fleeting scenes, we lift lame hands of prayer to Thee who art from everlasting to everlasting. From the grinding daily schedules which

drain our strength and enmesh our hearts and minds, we would for these dedicated moments gaze up and out to the eternal principles which give worth and meaning to all that is said or done here.

Purge our hearts of unworthy entanglements and shabby selfish motives which may mar and blot the future's broadening way. In a world that has become a neighborhood, and which we must make a brotherhood or perish, join us to the increasing legion that across the boundaries of prejudice, intolerance, and hatred, extends the dominion of healing good will. Out of the ruins of mankind's shattered hopes, may Thy kingdom come. Thou who through storm and night art still guarding and guiding, to Thee aloud we cry, God save the state.

We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1963

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come: Grateful for that help and that hope, we are bowing in the peaceful stillness of this Chamber, a citadel of freedom where, in the yesterdays, fateful decisions have molded the life of the Nation. We beseech Thee to guide by Thy wisdom the pending legislation of this body, entrusted with power so vast that it awes and solemnizes our hearts.

Consecrate anew, we pray, these servants of the Republic, that they may be ministers of Thy will for this troubled generation heaving with the yeast of changing patterns.

Make plain to our understanding, as we read the signs of these times, that legal enactments in themselves are utterly futile to bring social salvation unless they are undergirded by inner integrity and reliance on spiritual resources, without which all else we may attempt are as bending props against a decaying house that the Lord hath not made.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1963

ETERNAL GOD, our Father, in the stillness of prayer, as the loud poundings of the Nation's builders cease, always we are conscious of a persistent knocking at our heart's door, and of a tender pleading Voice which steals into the emptiness of our self-content and our self-sufficiency, calling: "If any man will open the door, I will come in."

Solemnize us with the realization that only our hand on the inside can open the door that keeps Thee out of our lives, which, without Thee, are but vanity and vexation of spirit.

If Thou should come to us dressed drably as duty, may we earn at the last Thy "Well done." If Thou should come in the disappointment of hopes deferred, still keep our eyes upon the shining goals to which Thou art the way. If Thou comest in the white garments of truth, may we not fail to follow the road, though rough and steep.

As we fare forth in Thy fear, prosper us this day in all our toiling. So may we fulfill our daily tasks with honor bright, walking ever in the ways of Thy commandments.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1963

O THOU GOD ABOVE ALL, YET IN ALL: Our way is veiled in night; with Thee alone is endless day. Out of the darkness and above the storms of earth, we lift our prayer.

In spite of our selfish schemes, which too often have been blind to the welfare of the common man at home and abroad, Thou hast entrusted to our hands and to those who march with us in freedom's cause the keys of the future. As the unworthy agents of Thy resistless will, our eyes are seeing Thy righteous sentence written against any tyranny which

blasphemes Thy Holy Name, and the fulfillment of the ancient word: "Who so diggeth a pit shall fall in it; and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."

In this grand, yet awful, time, we are solemnly conscious in this historic Chamber that the light of each new day is calling for decisions of destiny which will mold the future, determining the shape of things to come for myriads of the sons of men and of generations unborn.

Open our eyes and strengthen our hearts, that we may trust tomorrow's gleams. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1963

O God, Thy word is written in the very framework of the universe; Thy image is stamped at the very core of our being. It is Thy voice which, if we have but ears to hear, soundeth in the experiences which sing and sob and sigh across life's changing scenes.

Discarding every mask and disguise of pretense, which, alas, too often we wear before the face of man, we come praying that the fretful fears that film our sight may be cast out by a love that takes the dimness of our souls away.

In the vision splendid of divine Fatherhood and of human brotherhood, may we dream our dreams, fashion our lives, enact our laws, build our Nation, and plan our world until this shadowed earth, which is our home, rolls out of the darkness into the light and it is daybreak everywhere.

We ask it in the name of the One whose life is the light for all men. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, following the example of our fathers, in the midst of a new day with its golden hours we come grateful for a laboring place in Thy vineyard, and that in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, Thou callest us to be fellow laborers with Thee.

Forgive the petulance of our impatience which is revealed in our easy discouragements, in our hasty judgments, in our childish outbursts because the kingdom of love and justice and peace seems too long delayed.

Our spirits are shadowed by the passing of an illustrious son of Texas and of the Nation, who in perilous times served in this body with impressive distinction and dedication, especially in complicated foreign affairs. As this day we lift up in grateful memory the long, faithful, national stewardship of Thy servant, Tom Connally, we humbly pray that we may be strengthened to play our part in the life of our times, to think clearly, to speak kindly, to act bravely, to walk in the light as Thou art in the light, to keep the faith, to finish our course, and then one day, falling on sleep, to gain the crown—the approval of the Master of all good workmen.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1963

O THOU who dost speak to listening hearts in the holy hush of each new dawn and in the brooding quietness of the evening: Speak to us now, we pray, in the heat and burden of noontide's toiling.

Teach those who here, in the gaze of the Nation and of the whole world, minister in this temple of democracy, to value a conscience void of offense and the royalty of inward

peace and poise, above all the pedestals, prizes, and preferments earth can give.

Help us to make true the image of our America, not as a giant flaunting its strength, but as a Good Samaritan bending in mercy and help over a sick and wounded world.

In the dear Redeemer's name, we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1963

Eternal Father, Thou God of our salvation: In all the confusion and perplexity of these days of change and unrest, help us to keep inviolate in our souls a little shrine of quietness, a chapel of peace within, an altar of contrition, a sanctuary of sure and swift retreat, away from the strife of tongues, where the world's angry voices are dimmed.

And so here at this noontide pavilion of devotion, on which the founders' faith chiseled deeply, "In God we trust," we humbly bow with the deathless assurance, that turns even tragedy into triumph—"The Eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1963

Our Father, God, from the valley of need, where we are called to serve, we lift our eyes to the hills of a waiting strength not our own.

Our minds are startled by the swift march of world-shaking events. Hidden fires are flaming forth, consuming the old habitations of men. Everywhere our ears are assailed by harsh voices that challenge all that a former generation counted fixed, final, and sure. Men in fetters, whose

lives have been held more cheap than merchandise, are chanting fierce songs of expected freedom.

Now God be praised, who hath matched us with this hour when, with the shining sword of emancipation, Thou callest us to lead in the great crusade against all that denies, degrades, and enslaves Thy other children under all skies.

O God, make us wise enough to give ourselves to the highest. Make us good enough to surrender ourselves to the best.

We ask it in the Redeemer's blessed name. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1963

Merciful Father, by whose good providence we are the sharers of the rich and costly privileges which are our heritage in this dear land where shines freedom's holy light: Climbing the world's great altar stairs which slope through darkness up to Thee, out of the depths of our need for guidance, we beseech, "Lead, Kindly Light; lead Thou us on."

By national and global tasks, too difficult for us, we are driven unto Thee for strength to face what must be faced if freedom is to live on the earth, and for wisdom to rightly interpret the signs of these testing times.

May the spokesmen for the people, who in this Chamber serve in the sacred stewardship of public welfare, by their dedication buttress the cause of our free institutions and the redemption from thralldom of our common humanity, and so be partners with Thee in building the city of God on the ruined wastes of this disturbed and disordered world.

We ask it in the name of the One whose is the power and the kingdom and the glory. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1963

O God, who commandest the morning: At this noontide altar we commit into Thy hands our wills and our work, in calm confidence that Thou art in the shadows, and behind them, working out Thy purposes for mankind, Thy children.

Day by day set our feet on the shining path of righteous duty and selfless service.

In these days wherein the souls of men who seek the right and follow truth are sorely tried, when so much is demanded of those who would serve the present age, grant to the Members of this body of governance strength and grace that they may prove worthy of every trust the Nation has committed to their hands, as on the anvil of momentous issues there slowly is hammered into shape the new and better world that is to be when Thy will is done and Thy kingdom comes.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1963

Gracious God, Almighty Father: In reverence, we stand before Thy majesty—a greatness that we cannot comprehend, as our little lives are enfolded by a love that is broader than the measure of man's mind.

We are grateful that our eyes have seen beauty, our hearts have felt love, our minds have discovered truth, and our wills have been gripped and captured by purposes that lift and ennoble and tie us to causes greater than our own brief span.

Give us a vision of the far-off years as they may be if redeemed by the Sons of God, so that we shall take heart and shall battle more valiantly as with eager devotion we

dedicate the Nation's strength to throwing open to all mankind the gates of a new life.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1963

O THOU GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, who revealest Thyself in all that is true and pure and lovely, we beseech Thee so to cleanse our hearts of all that defiles that they may be fitting audience chambers for Thy presence, for Thou hast told us that it is only the pure in heart who shall see God.

We come with anxious burdens on our minds and hearts for our Nation and the world, with haunting fears spoiling the music of what could be a fair earth, but which is being cursed by an uneasy peace which is, itself, war. We come with deep concern for the future our children's children will inherit from our blundering hands.

So, with contrite hearts, amid relentless duties, we pause in the midst of toiling hours to acknowledge our human frailties and to lean our weakness against the pillars of Thy almightiness.

We ask it in the name of the Holy One who came to bring life abundance to all the earth. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1963

ALMIGHTY GOD, THOU FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, whose paths are mercy and truth: Before the white splendor of Thy purity, every vileness shrinks away.

Lift us, we pray Thee, as we come, above the smog of the immediate, and set our gaze on the wide horizons of abiding verities. In the anxious contemplation of conditions that baffle us, in the grip of swift currents which

sweep us on, contending with evil forces whose hideous cruelty stabs our hearts with anguish, it is only the ultimate reality of Thy presence in such a world and the final invincibility of Thy truth which keep our feet from slipping in the whelming flood.

This day fix our eyes not just on what we vow before Thee to tear down, but upon what in Thy name and for the sake of all Thy children we pledge as channels of Thy might to build up.

With the burdens we all bear, guard our lips from chilling criticism which may unjustly wound some comrade plodding bravely on, with a heavy load, by our side.

We bring our prayer in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1963

ETERNAL GOD, in whose peace our restless spirits are quieted: From the flickering torches of our own understanding, into Thy holy light we would lift the difficult decisions of the public service which are focused within these walls. In the brooding silence of this still moment may the open windows of faith flood our darkness with the radiance of the eternal, that in Thy sunshine's blaze this toiling day may brighter, fairer be.

We give Thee thanks for all interpreters of Thy mind who, with brush or pen or winged words, bring even one more syllable of reality, one more gleam of the truth which makes men free. Clothe our failing flesh with Thy renewing grace, as now we bring our incompleteness to Thy completeness. Grant us inner greatness of spirit and clearness of vision to meet and match the large designs of this glorious and challenging day, that we may keep step with the drumbeat of Thy truth which is marching on.

In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1963

O God, infinite in mercy, love, and power: We come knowing that apart from Thee, all is vanity, that all other cisterns are empty and broken, and in Thee, alone, is the fountain of life.

At this noontide altar of the Nation's faith, we seek Thy guidance and a sense of Thy nearness. Deliver us, we pray, from the sophistries of the cynical and the inclination of our own wayward hearts to self-deceit.

Grant that our hearts may be shrines of prayer, our personalities centers of contagious good will, our homes nurseries of virtue, and our Nation an inspiring bulwark for the oppressed and a flaming beacon of hope whose beams shall battle the darkness in all the earth.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1963

O Thou Eternal God, quest of the ages, whom by searching we cannot find, we are sure of Thee, not just because Thou didst speak through the lips of prophets in days of old. We are sure of Thee because, for those who have hearts to feel and ears to hear, Thy voice today is calling.

Thou dost speak to us wherever truth is uttered. We see Thee in all life's loveliness. We touch Thy garment in the sacrament of human love. We sense Thy presence in all brave and generous deeds.

But give us to know that the deepest revelation of Thyself is hidden in our own hearts and in the hearts of our fellows on this strange, earthly pilgrimage. Enlarge our thoughts to make room in our sympathy for the vast multitudes of the disinherited who, in these days, have been stirred by a radiant hope, and who, as sheep without a shep-

herd, are turning from despair to promise. So may we find our true selves in the need of others, and thus, beyond ourselves, find Thee.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, as once more in this Chamber of deliberation there sounds the summons to prayer in a tense time, when so much for so many depends on what these servants of the people's will do and say here, save us, we beseech Thee, from turning just from dull habit and with unexpectant hearts to the reality in which we live and move.

We would that this daily moment of devotion shall make each of us more vividly aware of Thee, not only as a help in ages past, but as a quickening presence, a sustaining power, a refuge from the tumult and confusion of the world.

Like a lark rising on morning wings to sing its rapturous song at heaven's gate, so may we rise above all sham and drudgery, hopes deferred and broken dreams, with undaunted spirits to lift our own paean of faith above the common ground:

> "This is my Father's world,
> So let me ne'er forget
> That though the wrong seems oft so strong
> God is the Ruler yet."

Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1963

O GOD OF MEN AND OF NATIONS: We come to Thee with deep gratitude for our surpassing heritage. We ask that Thou wilt so undergird us that we shall never be disobedient

to the heavenly vision of a righteous nation with freedom and justice and opportunity to all.

Forbid that in dangerous days such as these the precious oil of our national unity should be spilled upon the ground, to ignite selfish fires. Rather, may it still feed the flame of liberty's torch as it enlightens the whole darkened earth.

In a revelation that may startle us and open our eyes to the solemn facts of these volcanic days, make clear to us that the massed difficulties besetting us are not so much political and economic as they are moral and spiritual; and that in all our baffled search for solutions, only by fresh awareness of Thee can the present social decay, which threatens the inner life and the outer strength of the Nation, be changed to decency and righteousness.

We lift our prayer in the Saviour's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963

FATHER OF ALL MEN, in all our groping amid the mists of the valley of doubt, we turn to Thee as to the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. In this and every moment of sincere devotion, may there come to us, as alone we face Thee, the solemn realization that we cannot make ourselves one with other men until there is no happiness of others in which we are not glad, nor any wound of others in which we are not hurt, and that, whether we will or not, we are in very truth members one of another in this strange bundle of humanity.

In these changing days, when on the earth Thou art making all things new, deliver us, we pray, from the web of outgrown precedents and from the sophistries of mere party shibboleths. May those who within these walls grapple with the thorny problems of this generation, girded by Thy

might, find the courage to fly, the urgency to run, and the patience to walk.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963

Prayer offered in Senate Chamber upon notice of shooting of President in Dallas, Tex.

PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT

We will first stand for a moment of silent prayer.

Our Father, Thou knowest that this sudden, almost unbelievable, news has stunned our minds and hearts as we gaze at a vacant place against the sky, as the President of the Republic goes down like a giant cedar green with boughs goes down, with a great shout upon the hills, and leaves a lonesome place against the sky. We pray that if it is within Thy will his life may still be spared.

In this hour we cry out in words that were uttered in another hour of deep loss and bereavement: "God lives! And the Government at Washington still stands."

Hold us, we pray, and the people of America, calm and steady and full of faith for the Republic in this tragic hour of our history.

God save the state and empower her for whatever awaits in the great world role she has been called to fill in this time of destiny. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1963

God of the living and of the living dead: As in this hour we bow in the shadow of a people's grief, Thou dost hear the sobbing of a stricken nation. But we come with the

comfort that Thou knowest what is in the darkness, and that the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee.

For the stewardship in the brief but epochal years of the young and gallant captain who has fallen at his post, we give thanks to Thee, the Master of all good workmen. In the profile of courage, of vision, and of faith which John F. Kennedy etched upon the darkened sky of these agitated times, in his exalted place of leadership, we behold the image of our America which alone will make sure the survival of our freedom.

And now that the valorous sword has fallen from his lifeless hands, he seems to be calling to us in the unfinished tasks which remain.

> Others will sing the song
> Finish what I began
> What matters I or they
> Mine or another's day
> So the right word he said
> And life the purer made.

In the Nation's poignant loss, may there come to those whose hands are at the helm of this dear land of our faith and love the vision which fortified Thy prophet of old as he bore witness:

> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord high and lifted up.

So in this year of a tragic death, may there be granted to us a vision of the preeminent spiritual verities which abide and undergird and outlast the life and death of any mortal servant of great causes who toils for a while in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal, and then falls on sleep.

We pray in the name of the risen Christ who hath brought life and immortality to light. Amen.

FATHER OF MEN AND NATIONS: Thou knowest that on these black-bordered days our heavy hearts have been saying, "Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away."

But we turn to Thee who art from everlasting to everlasting, a riderless steed, upon which millions have gazed with appalled eyes, is not a symbol of a leaderless nation, and that history assures us that in every crisis, Thou dost raise up men to carry on Thy mission for the redemption of humanity.

We are heartened to know that when any leader falls, Thy truth goes marching on—always.

At this noontide which succeeds the day of mourning, when the Nation stopped to weep and ponder, we turn to unfinished tasks with a new assurance of the invincibility of righteousness and truth. Like a rainbow arching the darkened sky will be the remembrance that to America in her shocked grief, there hastened the highest spokesmen of the world's nations, speeding around the earth to stand together in a temple of divine worship, witnessing to an essential kinship with the eternal principles to which this Republic, under any leader, is dedicating her might.

And now as these heralds of good will return across the long miles to their own capitals, we would lift to Thee, with hearts strangely moved, the poet's prayer—

> The tumult and the shouting dies;
> The captains and the kings depart;
> Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
> An humble and a contrite heart;
> Lord, God of Hosts, be with us yet,
> Lest we forget, lest we forget!

Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1963

O THOU CHANGELESS GOD OF THE CHANGING YEARS: In these so suddenly saddened days, we are conscious that a new page in the Republic's history is being turned and another form sits in the Presidential chair.

We especially pray the benediction of Thy grace upon Thy servant who, after a notable record of public service in this body, crowned by these past years as its President, graces now as Chief Executive a maddening maze of problems tragic and thorny.

We beseech Thee to strengthen the heart and mind, the hands and lips of our colleague, Lyndon Johnson, as this day to a listening world he sounds the trumpet of his inaugural hope and purpose. As the ship of state plows on through perilous seas, in spite of rock and tempest roar, in spite of false lights on the shore, bring our national barque to the desired haven of peace with victory for truth and justice. Toward this goal, trusting in Thy mercy and might, we press on to meet the vast issues of this day of destiny as in the name of the Lord, our God, we set up our banners.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1963

O THOU GOD OF ALL MEN: Blind and deaf would we be should we bow in this Chamber at our altar of prayer without a sense of solemn gratitude and gladness that while the Nation's losses are grievous, Thou hast given to us so much.

We come in remembrance of lives greatly lived, whose record is our heritage. Be with us in deepened gratitude as we think of those who strove for truth and, when they found it, spoke it; for those who could not see evil without crying out against it; for those who felt in their own hearts

the pain of injustice done to others; and for those, no longer here, who condemned oppression, challenged tyranny, and fought for liberty.

In the midst of today's continuing struggle between the true and the false, between love and hate, grant by Thy grace to us whose courses are not yet finished, new fortitude and reinforcement for the times in which we live, until by patience, persistence, and by a daring that turns not back, we become sufficient for the tasks committed to our hands.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1963

God of our fathers, facing tasks that tower above our power to achieve, with a sense of our utter inadequacy when left to our own devices, we bow here in silence for the strengthening benediction of our morning prayer.

As we lift our stewardship into Thy light, keep our goals clear, our hearts pure, and our spirits courageous as we are enmeshed in all the tangled tragedy of our ailing world. By Thy kindly light, as we follow it patiently and obediently, lead us and all men of good will to a realm where peace and concord shall reign, to a kingdom of human rights where mouths shall not cry for bread, where hands and feet shall not be shackled, where speech shall not be silenced, where eyes shall not be bandaged, nor minds darkened by distorting lies which hide the light of truth.

We ask it in the name of the One who declared, "I am come to put at liberty those that are bound." Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1963

Our Father, God, who dost overarch our fleeting years with Thine eternity, and dost undergird our weakness with Thy strength: In the midst of the pressures of another day,

as Thy servants here face its vast concerns, we pause with bowed heads and hearts at this shrine of our spirits.

Without Thee, even our wistful hopes for humanity are like winter's withered leaves—once verdant and bright—now brown and crumpled ruins blown upon a bitter wind.

Above all else, we pray Thee to save us from succumbing to the terrible temptation to become cynical and to be men of a faith that has faded. Join us in kinship to those who in other times that tried men's souls went on believing in beauty and love and God, in the midst of ugliness, hatred, and horror.

In this faith, steel our hearts to march breast forward toward the clean world our hands can make as we labor together with Thee.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1963

Our Father, strong to save, amid the shifting shadows of the temporal, give us clear and clean eyes to discern the shining truth of the eternal. Forgive us that in the heat of partisanship so often we have forgotten that above our selfish ambitions and our hollow pride lie unchangeable verities like granite peaks piercing the sky.

Facing days which tax all our resources, give us the untroubled calm which illuminates faith in the final triumph of every true idea let loose in the world, and against which the gates of hell cannot prevail. And in a world which is a battlefield where truth and falsehood are locked in mortal combat, even as we face unnumbered foes, bar our own hearts from all corroding hatred; and as we fight the good fight, may our strength be as the strength of 10 because our hearts are pure.

We ask it in the name of the Holy One who declared, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1963

ETERNAL FATHER, who art the light behind life's shadows, the love behind life's sorrows, shine, we pray, in morning splendor upon these darkened lives of ours, groping in a maze of uncertainty and perplexity.

We cannot lean upon our own unaided might—our flesh is too fragile, our hearts too evil, our wills too wayward.

At the beginning of another week of deliberation, coming for this noontide tryst to this altar of a nation under God, we would not catalog the sins and shortcomings of others. We come as those who have missed the mark of our high calling and who, standing in the white light of Thy searching, pray for Thy forgiveness and Thy cleansing. Then as we go forth to face tangled and unpredictable days that tax our human resources and understanding, we ask only for light enough for the next step, courage enough to face the present duty, and truth enough for today's decisions, as into Thy hands we commit the welfare of our Nation.

We make our prayer in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1963

OUR FATHER, GOD, we turn to Thee with our drained lives filled with tension for the present, anxiety for the future, with deep concern about ourselves, our Nation, and our world; and yet with a radiant hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way.

In spite of all the diversities of gifts and thought, in a common unity help us to lay aside every weight of prejudice, of pride, or of covetousness, and with glad and eager feet to march with the army that goes to free, not to bind; to develop, not to rule; to cooperate, not to dominate, until the knowledge of the Lord, who is no respecter of persons, shall cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea.

May this be a hallowed session, as this day in this Chamber, where he served the Nation, there is honored one so suddenly snatched from his great task of world leadership. We will remember him always as—

"One who never turned his back
But marched breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted,
Wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise,
Are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake."

Now at noonday, in the bustle of man's worktime, he has greeted the unseen with a cheer.

Gird us all to work in sunny hours, knowing that the night is coming when man's work is done.

In the blessed name of the world's Redeemer, who accomplished so much in so short a span, we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1963

O Thou Desire of nations, again as our hearts are drawn by the lure of the manger, as time draws near the birthday of the One whose coming broke the ages in two, enable our spirits to kindle with the joy of simple shepherds of long ago. Thou, who in times past, across yearning centuries, spoke to the fathers, through the prophets, hast

spoken to us in the word made flesh, whose name is the Prince of Peace, and upon whose shoulder the government of men must ultimately rest.

We thank Thee that not on one wondrous night alone did a star of hope light the heavens, but that straight down the crowding years the starlit pathway leads, reminding our earth-filled eyes that the highest truth is born in lowly places, clad in humble garb.

As the Christmas star rains its fire once more on an earth plowed with spite and hate, may we see in it a shining symbol that if we would find the truth and the life abundant, we must follow our starry ideals, no matter over what burning sands or to what lonely deserts they take our faltering feet.

We ask it in the name of the One who didst come to a violent world, and who is now remembered and adored, while the ruthless dictators are forgotten. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1963

O Thou Immanuel, God with us, again by Thy grace the journeying months have brought us near to the shining glory of the holy night.

Amid the tumult and terror of man's inhumanity to man, we hear anew the tidings of the angels' song and the music that is not of earth. Amid all the bitterness and ill will of these days, we are grateful for the gentle, balmy climate of the Christmastide. May an understanding sympathy that knows no boundaries of border or breed or birth, find lodging even in hearts now hardened by cynicism.

In this happy season of thinking of others and of gathering around the family hearths, save us from a festivity that knows nothing of receptivity, and from decoration that forgets dedication. May the holly of this joyous time enshrine the holy, and its crimson beads be but emblems of the myrrh

of sacrifice, the gift of contrite hearts. Hasten the day when the mighty melody above a little eastern town, "Peace to Men of Good Will," shall be the divine harmony of all earth's myriad tongues.

We ask it in the name of the Bethlehem Babe. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1963

God of grace and glory: Once more with an unnumbered host under all skies, crowding the Bethlehem way, we jubilantly approach the feast of The Child, who in His advent was set for the falling and rising of nations.

We come with a joyous Te Deum in our hearts that He, who came to a crib of straw, and who could not be stopped by a cruel cross, is our Great Contemporary, and that when from our grateful plenty, we feed, warm, shelter, and clothe even those who think of themselves as our enemies, we, too, bow at the manger to keep Christmas in our hearts, as the Christ of the Holy Night whispers, "Ye do it unto Me."

Grateful that faith has still its Bethlehem, may we here highly resolve that the word of childlike humility, of uncalculated service, of undaunted courage, and of undimmed faith may be made flesh in our own lives, cradled by faith and hope and love. With this invincible defense, send us forward into the waiting new year determined to put into the fugitive fragments of every day such quality of work as will make us unashamed when all our days are done.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1963

O Thou who art the eternal source of the love that came down at Christmas, help us to see that the heart of what the world is celebrating these festive days is the opposite

of most of this generation's priorities in the busy rush for success. Give us to comprehend the magnificent irony of His coming, with its reversals of the standards of men—that right past wealth and purple pomp and priestly pride, scorning kings and rulers and unworthy religions leaders, past church, past state, past throne and altars, the true word of God made flesh, compelling and revolutionary, came to the lowly manger, for there was no room in the busy inn.

Open our eyes to see that still today, as unpredictable as the Bethlehem inn, again and again the hands and feet and lips of Thy deepest purpose for the world are housed in some human life, and that when—

> They all were looking for a king
> To raise their hopes and lift them high—
> He came, a little baby thing
> That made a woman cry!

So may we thrill once more, as the silver trumpets of Christmas are heard, as with contrite hearts we confess—

> I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe
> Could in the Godhead be;
> I only know the manger Child
> Has brought God's life to me.

In that Holy Child's blessed name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1963

Our Father, God: In times of stillness, such as this hallowed moment, as we pause in the midst of rushing cares, we hear—like bells at evening pealing—the call of the better angels of our nature: we come seeking wide horizons around our noisy lives. 'Midst all the busy shuttles of legislation, as here is woven the fabric of law and order, shielding the life of our democracy and of free peoples

everywhere, may we not be so enmeshed in the immediate mechanics of our solemn tasks as to lose sight of the total pattern shown in the mount of vision.

We are grateful that, once more, over an earth grown old with its burden of care, the voice of the Christ Child rings out, with its cheer that mankind are the children of God. May we realize with a new urgency that He does not stay in a manger, but that He walks in our world of pretense and greed and self-seeking, and that where He goes the judgment of God goes with Him. Bending low through the gate of the child heart, may we find the simplicity, the freedom, and the truth that sword and tongue and pen can never give. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1963

Our Father, God, as we go our differing ways across the Nation to the place hallowed as home, may the Christmas cradle bring to us a penitent revelation that in our smart sophistication and towering self-sufficiency, we have so often mistaken partial knowledge for final truth, and cleverness for wisdom, and so, alas, have sometimes trusted in a wisdom that is not wise. Now as the sands of this year of peril, toil, and pain run low, Thy public servants of the commonwealth, who carry out their stewardship within these walls as they are entrusted with the ministry of government, with burdened and sober hearts prepare to write the final word of an epic chapter to our national history whose last pages are bordered with the symbols of mourning. Frail human hands have carried the precious ark of our heritage through a threatened peace and through the encircling gloom; yet we dare believe that it is still Thy hand that guides and guards.

We ask the benediction of Thy grace upon all wise and good decisions, and beseech Thee to overrule all that denies Thy will for us and all mankind.

We ask it in the ever-blessed name of the Supreme Person of whom the holy prophets declared—"And the government shall be upon His shoulder." Amen.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1963

O God, who in the gift at Bethlehem sent the supreme revelation of Thy love to all mankind: Into Thy holy keeping we commit ourselves and all that has been said and done here in sincerity of motive and purpose. Wilt Thou bless and strengthen all that within these cherished walls has been worthily weighed as these servants of the people's choice have followed flickering lights in a darkened hour.

And now as in the glow and glory of the Christmastide "The End" is about to be inscribed, closing another chapter in the record of the Nation's life.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in your going out and in your coming in. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace—peace in your own hearts and homes, peace in this dear land where still burns brightly freedom's holy light, and the Advent offer of peace throughout all the earth to men of good will, now and evermore.

In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1963

Our Father, Thou hast taught us to love truth and beauty and goodness. May Thy truth make us free—free from pride and prejudice and from all the ugly sins of disposition that

so easily beset us. Lift us, we pray, above the mud and scum of mere things to the holiness of Thy beauty, so that even the common task and the trivial round may be edged with crimson and gold.

Lead us into paths of righteousness for Thy name's sake. Enrich us, we pray, with the durable satisfactions of life, so that the multiplying years may not find us bankrupt in the things that matter most—the golden currency of faith and hope and love.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1964

GOD OF OUR FATHERS IN YEARS THAT HAVE GONE, and God our help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing, as the new year summons these spokesmen for democracy to play their parts in this free forum of a people's will before it is dared here to face the vital issues of this fear-haunted day, we would in reverence and dedication lift our hearts to Thee, whose light alone floods our mortal lives with deathless splendor.

In this new hour of solemn convocation, as with great expectations the second chapter of this Congress is opened, with tangled problems waiting on its pages, may fallible judgments be bent to Thy wisdom, and may human limitations lean upon the steadying assurance: The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

As the days that beckon demand that crucial decisions be recorded in this Chamber of governance, the consequences of which will reverberate around the earth, keep before these servants of the public weal, we pray, the undimmed goal of a better world cleansed of its needless misery and agony, of its gnawing hunger, and of its binding fetters. May we be counted by the future as marching with the builders of a

redeemed earth whose dividing chasms will be bridged at last by a universal brotherhood.

In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1964

ETERNAL FATHER, in changing and troubled days we come to this altar of devotion, praying for quiet hearts and for conceptions big enough and spirits strong enough to match the awesome times in which our lot is cast.

We confess the things in our own dear land of liberty which weaken and betray the faith we profess. We acknowledge the selfishness which dominates groups caring only for their own fenced-in interests; the partisanship which sees clearly the next election, while ignoring the next generation. We bewail the narrow nationalism which is oblivious to the fact that exploitation and injustice anywhere poison the arterial blood of the race. Our hearts cry out in such a time, O America, America, God mend thine every flaw, and fit thee to be the channel of His redeeming grace for all the earth.

To transform this earth, which could be so fair, God bless America as she throws her might, moral and spiritual, across the path of ruthless, godless materialism. May our strength, through Thy will, be a radiant factor in bringing to pass a just peace in our time, O Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1964

ETERNAL SPIRIT, far above us, yet deep within us, in communion with Thee we find peace for our spirits and power for our tasks. Even as in the problems we face there so often come to us disappointment, disillusionment, and often hopes deferred bordering on despair, we bow in gratitude for the

mercies beyond our deserving which hallow our days—the sacrament of friendship, the opportunities for service, the joys and privileges of a free life.

Thou knowest that we supremely care for our schools, our homes, our churches, and for the welfare of our communities. O Thou God of our salvation, put courage, we pray Thee, into our hearts, understanding into our minds, and strength into our arms. Give us a long look and a deep faith in the kingdom of God and of good that shall yet come on the earth. Send us forth, we beseech Thee, with the baptism of Thy spirit, so to live and work that we shall help leave behind us a fairer world in which Thou canst rear Thy human family.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1964

Almighty and Everlasting God: At morning and evening and noonday, in Thy light, we would see life steadily and, seeing it whole, discern in it Thy purpose for us and for all Thy children.

Thou art revealed to us in the order of the world in which we live, in the beauty which opens vistas in a world beyond our senses. We find Thee in the truth our minds discover and, above all, in spiritual life as we touch it in the noblest sons of men.

Thou knowest the lure of temptation to be less than our best; Thou understandest the drain of our daily work and the limitations of our strength. In all our relationships with our fellows, grant us, we pray Thee, the grace of meekness and the power of self-control. Remove far from us all hypocrisy and pretense. Help us this day to speak only such words and to do only such things as will leave no regret at the setting of the sun.

As we lift up our hearts for divine help, in these days that baffle our human wisdom and discernment, come down the secret stairs by which Thou canst enter every contrite heart, for Thou hast taught us that out of the heart are the issues of life.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1964

Our Father, God, again we turn to this wayside altar of prayer; but we come, not that we should commune with Thee only at this particular time and place, but to so open our lives to Thee that Thou wilt be the companioning presence of every hour, facing with us what we face, going with us where we go, sustaining, guiding, correcting, empowering, until our brief day's work is done.

Our Father, we cannot adequately face such a world and make our humble contribution to the healing of its open sores unless we keep untarnished our faith in Thy power to make even the wrath of man praise Thee, and in the ultimate victory of Thy purpose—

> Lord, in this hour of tumult;
> Lord, in this night of fears,
> Keep open, O keep open,
> Our eyes, our hearts, our ears.

In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1964

Almighty God, Thou hast made us in Thine image and likeness, and hast imparted within us quenchless desires which a world of mere things can never satisfy.

Amid the earthquake, wind, and fire of this violent world, for this hallowed moment we would be still and know that Thou art God. As we spend our years like a tale that is told, may it be to the last page a record of service well done, of duty faced without flinching, of honor unsullied, and of far horizons of progress that ever beckon.

In the fierce fight to maintain our own liberty and everywhere to make men free, we pray that, earthen vessels though we are, we may be the channels of Thy holy purpose to break all slavish shackles which bind Thy children and betray their dignity.

In this day of constant change, save us from being prophets of gloom and of doom. Even as we peer at the fiery destruction of the old, may there be vouchsafed to us luring vistas of a richer, fairer earth to be.

We ask it through riches of grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1964

God of all mercy, who art acquainted with our frailties, and forgivest even our craven denials of Thyself: Thou who knowest our hearts knowest that as we pause in contrite devotion at this daily arbor of quiet, we hate our sins of omission and commission that draw us from the glory of our better selves. By our very failures and fallibilities and by tasks too difficult for us, we are driven unto Thee for strength to endure and wisdom to rightly interpret the signs of these trying times.

In the cause of our free land and of our common humanity, may we be colaborers with Thee in helping to build the city of God on the ruined wastes of this divided and disordered world.

May the benediction of Thy grace rest upon Thy servants, called to serve the Nation and the world in such an age. Here in the homeland, amid familiar scenes, or in far parts of the world, beset by danger, may Thy protecting care encompass them, giving them every new day, whatever may be the circumstances, the assurance that underneath are the everlasting arms.

Amid all life's changes, Thou who changest not, abide with us and guide us, now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1964

O Thou Seeking Shepherd of our souls, who leadest us beside still waters and in green pastures: Unto the hills of Thy strength and glory, we lift the expectant eyes of our faith, for from Thee cometh our help.

Even as with bending backs we toil in the valley, we are grateful that the light of heaven falls upon our daily tasks and that in the beauty of common things we may partake of the holy sacrament of Thy presence.

Give us a sobering realization that our individual attitudes go to make the national and international climate of these dangerous days in which we live. By the warmth of our own spirit may we contribute to the final dispelling of the atmosphere of skepticism and suspicion in which grow only the rank weeds of hatred, so often rooted in ignorance.

Make us willing partners in the garden of good will, cultivating the flowers of appreciation and understanding which will at last climb over all dividing walls and make the fields of all nations blossom as the rose.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1964

ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom no secrets are hid, and from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, we pray that there may be forever cherished in this shrine of freedom the spiritual values which alone can bring order out of chaos and concord out of strife.

Fit us to be the agents of Thy purpose in fostering in the hearts of all men the true love of peace with justice and righteousness which takes into consideration the inherent dignity of every child of Thine.

In the global decisions facing the Republic, make us sensitive to any subtle attempts to compromise principle, and thus betray the rights that are given by Thee to every individual on the face of the earth. No matter what others do, even if some with whom we have marched link arms with iniquity, help us to stand, whatever the cost, for the hard right, even amid the blandishments of an expedient wrong.

Give us to see that to consent to the crucifixion of freedom, anywhere on the earth, is ultimately to nail our own liberties on the same cross, knowing that with whatever measure we mete, it shall be measured to us again.

We ask it in the name of the One whose truth makes men free. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1964

O GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou searcher of men's hearts, who desireth truth in the inward parts, help us, we pray, in this opening moment of a new day's council to draw near to Thee in tranquillity, humility, and sincerity.

With the benediction of Thy grace, may Thy servants here face the demands of this day with honest dealing and clear

thinking, with hatred of all hypocrisy, deceit, and sham, and in the knowledge that all great and noble action in this world is based on gentleness, patience, and self-giving. Across the debris of ancient wrong may our glad eyes see the coming of the glory of the Lord as in all the earth selfish exploitation makes way for brotherhood and for man.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1964

FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, as together we pause at this shrine of devotion our fathers built, grant us, we pray Thee, the steadying vision of Thy eternal goodness and a sense of Thy guidance.

We give Thee thanks for the lofty souls of the yesterdays which in the silence of this Chamber are our cloud of witnesses today, and whose fidelity in the past still urges us on to golden goals not yet reached. Join us to—

> That company of souls supreme
> The conscripts of the mighty dream.

In a day when all we value most seems so often to be at the mercy of what we value least, so direct Thy servants who here conduct the affairs of the Republic that the best which is expected of them, and of which their dedicated faculties are capable, may be brought to bear without fear or favor upon the confused issues of this critical day.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1964

O THOU WHOSE THRONE IS TRUTH: As together we face the tasks of yet another week, we come to this altar of prayer, not to ask for easy paths without wounding thorns, but for

guidance that will save us from losing our direction or from becoming men and women of dimmed faith. In Thy searching light we would lay aside our haughty self-sufficiency as we humbly beseech Thee that we may keep step with what Thou dost purpose for us and for all Thy children on this little spinning island in the sky. Make us valiant to face falsehood without flinching, and to face it with the truth over which at last no weapon can prevail.

Even amid a barrage of abuse from those who in their blindness imagine a vain thing, keep our hearts void of hatred, our speech temperate, and to keep as our ruling passion the desire for a just and righteous peace binding all peoples, remembering that Thy Word declares that he that keepeth his own heart is greater than he that taketh a city.

We ask it in the Redeemer's ever-blessed name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1964

Our Father, God, we beseech Thee that Thou wilt make this pause in the work of the day a moment of devotion, a pavilion of Thy peace, as—trusting only in Thy mercy—we bring our soiled souls to Thy cleansing grace.

We come with heavy burdens on our minds and hearts, for our Nation and for our world. We come with deep anxiety concerning the tomorrows our children and our children's children will inherit from our hands. Yet we live and labor in the confidence that—overruling our failures—Thy truth is marching on, even in the seeming bafflements of these tumultuous days.

Take us, we pray Thee, as we are. With unfulfilled purposes and disappointed hopes, with impulses, strivings, and longings so often frustrated and thwarted, and even with

what is broken and imperfect in us, may we be used to make Thy radiant dreams for all Thy children come true.

We ask it in the name of Him who made life a sacrament, and a cross a throne. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, in a tense and strained world so agitated and divided, we would seek the peace which is the gift of Thy love and grace to all those who, with true purpose of heart, turn unto Thee.

At the beginning of a new week, with tangled human problems pressing for solution, we humbly bow at this wayside shrine to which, across the long years, a pathway has been worn by those who with a sense of the eternal have here served the Republic. We come praying that to Thy servants in the high functions of governance there may be given open ears, that they may hear voices calling to high endeavor; open minds, ready to receive and welcome new light and truth as it is revealed to them; open eyes, quick to discover Thine indwelling in all this wondrous world which Thou hast made; open hands, ready to share as they hold all good things in trust for Thee, and through Thee, for Thy other children.

We ask it in the name of the Holy One who came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1964

O THOU FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, who hearest prayer, and to whom all flesh shall come, breathe now upon our waiting hearts, we beseech Thee, the benediction of Thy holy calm.

Not only in moments of blessed quietness, with raucous

sounds shut out, may we hear Thy summons, but also in the thunder of these tumultuous days of destiny may we be conscious that Thy voice to us is calling.

As from this historic Chamber the panorama of the Nation's life in all the yesterdays passes before our eyes and minds, may we here highly resolve that this white-domed Capitol edifice shall be not only an arsenal of material might, but also a cathedral of faith where are proclaimed to all the earth the sanctions of irresistible moral force and of spiritual verities upon which our freedoms were reared, on which they rest, and without which our boasted democracy is but a bruised and broken reed.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1964

O Thou God of truth, Father of our spirits, all is Thine except the drifting clouds of unrighteousness which in the end cannot hide Thy light, which no darkness can put out.

For those who here in perilous times, sent to this body by those who put their trust in them, and who speak for the people's best welfare, we pray for their deliverance from the subtle lures of office and from the arrogance which lurks always in power, and for the unswerving determination to bow to no compulsion, save the sovereignty of their own conscience.

Steady us in all our decisions and in all our ways, with the knowledge that only in Thy will is our peace and our victory.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, we turn to Thee in the heat and burden of another day, grateful for the love that our indifference cannot discourage and for the patience that our folly cannot exhaust.

As noontide marks the fast-hurrying day and as the voices in this Chamber are hushed in silence in a moment of devotion, we would steady our hearts and minds in the glorious thought that amid all life's fleeting scenes, we are with Thee who changeth not.

We seek the sense of the invisible and the eternal that alone can bring peace and restoration to jaded bodies and to spirits whose strength is spent.

Grant us such a vision of our needy world, with all its yawning divisions and its poisoning suspicions, and yet with its dawning sense of human brotherhood, that the decisions that are here made may never have to be reversed by those who come after us, but that they may put us among the architects of a kindlier earth and of the final parliament of peace and plenty in which every kindred and tongue shall find their rightful place.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1964

MERCIFUL FATHER, whose faithfulness is constant with all our fickleness, whose forgiveness outlasts all our transgressions against Thy love which will not let us go, we bemoan the delusions which so often have led us to mistake shadow for substance; we confess that by false pride in our own ability to achieve we have been lulled into a cushioned optimism that the forked lightning of threatening tempests does not warrant.

And now with jarred and jolted minds we see the whole circle of the world about us grown somber and terrible with suspicion and conflict, with rumors of war, and with the smoke of a judgment which engulfs us all.

In this testing day when Thou art sifting out the souls of men before Thy judgment seat, give us the contempt for our own prejudices and the passion for pure motives and spiritual integrity in ourselves that will enable us to put on the whole armor of God as we fight for the emancipation of the downtrodden and exploited, and against the rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1964

O God, infinite in mercy, love, and power, we come, knowing that apart from Thee, all is vanity, that all other cisterns are empty and broken, and that in Thee alone is the foundation of life.

Facing the care of today and the burdens of tomorrow, we are bewildered by the perplexities and confusion of the world. From the threat and fever of vexed global problems, from all thought of praise or blame of men, from discordant noises and warped conceptions which beat upon our senses, at noontide we would follow the path to the quietness of Thy presence.

Touch every privilege we enjoy with the halo of sharing, we beseech Thee; melt it into unselfishness; translate it into service. Make every personal and national blessing a transparent window in the temple of helpfulness, so that Thy spirit can shine through it in glory for human good.

In the Redeemer's blessed name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, in whose love and wisdow lies all our hope, we thank Thee for all life's loveliness that cannot be shaken or shattered by the world's divisive hates or by the contentions that rend the earth, which could be so fair.

We are grateful for friendships which sanctify, for music which gives wings to our jaded spirits, for truth which breaks the shackles of the mind, and for shining human character, unsullied and unafraid, through which there floods sufficient of Thy light for us in the dark to rise by.

Immensed in this realm of facts and figures, daily facing demanding duties which seem to leave so little time for cultivating the graces of the spirit, we pause now to acknowledge that we cannot live by bread alone or in the flesh alone, and that the highest part of us must have an escape into altitudes measured not by days or clocks or calendars. Make real to us the kingdom within whose radiant realities are its faith, its ideals, its visions of beauty, and its aspirations that lay hold of God and goodness.

We ask it in the name of the One who is the fairest among ten thousand and the One altogether lovely. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1964

O THOU GOD OF ALL NATIONS AND OF ALL RACES, who has made of one blood all men to dwell on the face of the earth, send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead us, let them bring us to Thy holy hill.

Cleanse Thy servants who here serve the public welfare from secret faults which may mar their public service knowing that we cannot call mankind to put aside the weapons of carnage if our own lives are blighted by impurity and are arsenals of hatred and of a selfish passion

to rule. Make us all, we beseech Thee, vividly conscious of some freedoms which we may not exercise—the freedom to be self-indulgent; the freedom to satisfy our selfish greed, and leave others in need; the freedom to be soft, cynical, and self-centered; the freedom to criticize others, without accepting change in ourselves.

May Thy kingdom of love and righteousness come within us, that we may contribute worthily to mankind's abiding peace.

We ask it in the Name which is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, in the abundance of Thy mercy another day is added to the record of the lengthening years, as swift to its close ebbs out our little day. For the tomorrows and their needs we do not pray. For the day of Thy grace which now bathes us in its returning light, give us courage, give us vision, give us wisdom, that we fail not man nor Thee. Save us from being embittered by ingratitude, pettiness, or meanness, and from cowardly compromise in the global battle now raging for the minds of men. Valiantly may we fight the good fight whose issue will mold the future, knowing that so soon the night cometh when no man can work. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1964

O GOD, who art the hope of all the ends of the earth, amid the tragedy of a broken, divided world, in deep humility of spirit at another week's beginning we ascend

the altar stairs of this hallowed wayside shrine of our faith and hope.

As for this dedicated moment we blot out all but Thee in a world of rising and falling empires; we crave the strengthening vista of Thine eternal Kingdom whose sun never sets and for whose coming we daily pray.

Grant unto us the greatness of spirit which will match the vast patterns of this creative day. In these testing times, establish Thou our hearts as, marching with other freedom-loving nations, we battle, not in enmity against men, but against the evil which degrades and enslaves them.

Beyond the strategy of an armed peace—which is war against the forces which stifle the human spirit—may we see clearly the depth and scope of the historic drama of the centuries in which we are called to play our part; and may that vision help to turn its blood and sweat and tears into final glory for all mankind.

We ask it in Thine ever blessed name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1964

God of all grace: Thou hast taught us that in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength.

In bitter and baffling days, when the earth is full of the thunder of awakening peoples emerging from the darkness of ignorance and the serfdom of exploitation, give us, we beseech Thee, a courage that never fails and a faith that never wavers. Make us the kind of persons Thou canst trust as the instruments and channels of Thy saving grace.

Help us to heal the open sores of the world which hate, selfishness, and misunderstanding have inflicted on the bleeding body of our common humanity. For all who in

these days freighted with destiny administer the stewardship of the Nation's strength and service, we pray for divine guidance. Grant us this day, and in all the days of difficult decisions to come, light to guide us, courage to sustain us, and love to unite us.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1964

O God, our Father, in all the confusion and perplexity of these convulsive days, our faith looks up to Thee who dost overarch our fleeting years with Thy eternity and dost undergird our weakness with Thy strength.

Standing in these epochal days in the valley of decision, strengthen our will always to choose that which is morally excellent, rather than that which is politically expedient. May we never hesitate when the choice is between honor and calculation—

> "God the all-righteous One,
> Man hath defied Thee;
> Yet to eternity standeth Thy word.
> Falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside Thee.
> Give to us peace in our time, O Lord."

Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1964

Eternal Spirit, amid the tensions of these days when so many landmarks are disappearing, we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quiet and certainty.

Unto our keeping Thou hast committed a national heritage luminous with freedom's glorious light. For all the glory which is America, we bless Thy name.

Deepen in us the sense of surpassing opportunity and responsibility—yea, of a glorious mission—to do our full part in averting the global catastrophe of a fettered world with the planet a prison, with the minds of men in chains.

We thank Thee that with the freedoms which have made our America the torch of the world, mankind is given one last chance to make this earth a decent habitation for all Thy children.

So may it be in Thy providence that this Nation of our hope and prayer, desiring no good thing for herself that she does not desire for all the earth, may serve Thy kingdom in such a time as this.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1964

Almighty God, who art the abiding peace of the universe, we bow before Thee in humility and reverence. Breathe upon us now Thy benediction that even though the pathway our feet must tread is thorny, we may march on as valiant pilgrims, sustained by the confident assurance that the kingdoms of this world shall become at last the kingdom of Thy radiant love.

Send us forth, we beseech Thee, on the threshold of a new day, armed with Thy power to right wrong, to overcome evil with good; if need be to suffer wounds and endure hardships, but in all things to serve Thee bravely, faithfully, joyfully, that at the end of the day's labor as we kneel for Thy blessing, Thou mayest find no blot upon our shield.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, amid the darkness in which our sad world lieth, to Thy light which no darkness can put out, we turn from the hatred and tyranny which contend with good will and decency for the mastery of men's bodies and minds.

Turning aside from the pull of conflicting opinions and the rivalry of personal loyalties, empower us and sustain us as, with strength unequal to our tasks, we face the call of the world's great need.

For light enough to walk by through the encircling gloom, for inner stamina to carry heavy burdens, for uncompromised courage to dare policies with no partisan advantage, for insights that discern the truth and determination fearlessly to follow it, we lift up our hearts to Thee, that Thy completeness may flow around our incompleteness; and around our restlessness, Thy rest.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: Grant us, we beseech Thee, the grace and vision to toil in these fields of time in the sense of the eternal. We bring our stained lives to the holiness that shames our uncleanness, to the love that forgives our iniquities, to the truth that reveals our falseness, to the tireless patience that outlasts our fickleness.

In the brooding silence of this still moment before we are enmeshed in the rush of another day, may open windows of faith flood the shadows with light, that in Thy sunshine's blaze our lives may brighter, fairer be.

Grant us inner greatness of spirit and insight to rightly read the signs of these times. Matching the large designs

of this glorious and challenging day, may we keep step with the drumbeat of Thy purpose which is marching on.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: Once more a new day with its golden hours of opportunity lies before us.

We are grateful for a laboring place in Thy vineyard. In work that keeps faith sweet and strong. Thou dost call us to be fellow laborers with Thee.

In the midst of crushing cares and frenzied fears which characterize these days, may the healing balm of Thy presence restore our jaded souls. Forgive the petulance of our impatience which is revealed in our discouragements, in our hasty judgments, and in our childish outbursts because the kingdom of love, justice, and peace seems by our human calendars so long delayed.

Strengthen us to play our part in the life of our time, to think clearly, to speak kindly, to act bravely, to walk in the light as Thou art in the light, to keep the faith, and at last to finish our course with the "well done" of the Master of all good workmen.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, FATHER OF ALL MERCIES: Without the inner strength buttressing our weakness, which Thou alone canst give, we are but fainting and frail creatures, insufficient for these fear-haunted days.

As the chosen servants of the commonwealth, pressured by grave questions and vexing problems of human relationships

so vitally affecting national welfare and world concord, we would bow at this daily altar dedicated to the far look where, before our eyes, there tower the lofty and eternal verities that outlast the strident voices of any day.

We cannot adequately face a world such as the one we are called to serve, and make any humble contribution to the healing of its tangled, tragic state unless our faith in Thy power to make even the wrath of men praise Thee, and our assurance in the final victory of Thy purpose are kept untarnished.

To our stricken generation may there come peace with honor, with human dignity vindicated, and social justice the canopy of all the nations.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, who committest to us the swift and solemn trust of life: Amid all the tensions of the present and anxiety about the future, with deep concern about ourselves, our Nation, and our world, we turn to Thee, who only art our strong tower and sure defense in the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

In all the agony of our planet as it struggles toward a better habitation for humanity, we hear Thy solemn summons to discipline, toil, and ceaseless prayer, as we here in the homeland are joined with those who half a world away are arrayed against the common foe.

It is in Thy name that we set up our banners. And though the air be tremulous with anxious foreboding, yet will we not fear, though a host encamp against us, for in this will we be confident: Thou makest the devices of the wicked of noneffect. The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1964

ETERNAL SPIRIT, in whom alone is the strength of our hearts and the hope of our world, we come in our morning fellowship of prayer, not so much to seek Thee, as to open our faltering lives in penitence to Thy waiting strength.

In the midst of events so colossal that, as individuals on the confused world's stage, we seem puny and inadequate, O God, who sittest above the flood of man's insanity, lift us into the only greatness we can ever know by using us as the channels of Thy purpose and intent.

Give Thy servants in this Chamber of governance such spaciousness of mind and such transparent purity of heart, that in a world stricken with hatred and false pride they may see clearly and follow faithfully the things that belong to our peace and to the peace of the whole world.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1964

O GOD, OUR FATHER: For this sacramental moment, closing the doors to a noisy world full of terror and alarm, we enter this pavilion of quietness and peace, to acknowledge our utter dependence upon Thee—Thou who hast made us in Thy image and for Thyself.

Forgive us for smug satisfaction with ourselves and for our cynical contempt of others. Purge our minds of prejudices out of which we make walls separating us from our fellow man. Cleanse our hearts of the uncleanness which blinds our eyes to the splendor of spiritual verities—for we know that it is only the pure in heart who can see Thee.

So may we be more worthy to belong to the one great family of Thy children and to take our place at the common

table of humanity where the bread of fellowship is broken and the wine of sacrifice is shared.

And Thine shall be the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Amen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: This sacred altar at which we bow at the very threshold of the day's deliberations is the witness of our weakness and the contrite confession that in Thee alone is the answer to our needs.

Our hearts grow faint in the dust of our foolish pride. The arm of flesh but fails us. It reaches far short of worthy goals. The cries of the crowd about us but bring us to confusion without and perplexity within.

Weary of fruitless quests and futile arguments that have not Thee in awe, we turn to Thee in the humility of prayer. Give us vision and wisdom, that by the decisions made in this Chamber Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs may have a part in making earth's crooked ways straight when, at last, social and industrial relations will lose their hard antagonisms and will become the sacred cooperation of comrades in human service.

In the Name which is above every name, we lift our prayer. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1964

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL MEN, as the gavel falls for another week of challenge mid all the traffic of life's busy ways, we turn unfilled to Thee. From the framing of laws and the forming of policies holding in their reach the woe or the weal of the commonwealth and of the nations of all

the earth, we would pause amidst the shattering events and tempestuous emotions of our times, at this inner sanctuary where the world's angry voices die, and Thou alone art real.

In spite of temporary rebuffs, give us to see, this Holy Week, that wherever hatred gives way to love, wherever prejudice is changed to understanding, wherever pain is soothed and ignorance banished, there Thy banners go. We ask it in the name of Him who has transformed a cross of defeat into a crown of triumph, and whose kingdom has no frontiers. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1964

O Thou God of life and light, our glad hearts thrill at the risen glory of the awakening earth robed in the blooming garb of spring. As common bushes, lately so bare, are now aflame, and the time for the singing of birds has come, may a spiritual springtime make our own hearts even as the garden of the Lord, where barren branches may be clothed upon with the beauty of holiness and the fair flowers of humility and charity lift their fair petals above the fallow ground.

In this week of weeks, as we are driven to the strange Man lifted up from the earth, as He climbs new Calvaries with the Cross that ne'er turns back, may we know that it is by that sign that we, too, must conquer as we face those who would exploit and degrade the holy temple of human personality.

Whatever the future holds, in the might of that conquering sign, may we face it, calm and confident in the assurance that there lives the beauty that man cannot kill.

May we hold that faith, and hold it fast. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1964

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY: At this altar of prayer, with the glow of Easter already upon our spirits, with its thrilling message of the risen life, may we seek the things that are above. Steady us with the realization that back of all the dark tragedy now plaguing the earth there is the permanent good of Thy purpose for all mankind in which we may steadfastly believe and to which we must be loyal if, at last, life is to be saved from frustration.

May we fare forth, greeting with a cheer the unseen and the unknown, and sure that the third day cometh. With that unshakable faith we pray Thee so to empower these servants of the Nation's welfare that they may bring to their waiting tasks minds to be illumined with kindling thoughts that flame for Thee and for all Thy children; lips to be touched by the burning coals of Thy cleansing, that Thou mayest speak through them; and eyes that may see the invisible with the far look of assurance in things that will abide beyond our earthly years.

We ask it in the name of the Christ of Calvary and of Gethsemane and of the Easter morning garden. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1964

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GENERAL MACARTHUR IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

I Shall Return

Two immortal sentences which ring out across these years of destiny like the sound of trumpets are—"Lafayette we are here," and General Douglas MacArthur's, "I shall return."

The latter battlecry fell from the lips of a great soldier, leader of the embattled American forces in the Philippines. He had been ordered to withdraw to Australia and to plan further strategy from that distant point. "I shall return." That rallying promise to his beleaguered men, that definite reminder to the gloating foes of Corregidor, he fulfilled in due time on a dramatic day when again he stood on the shores of the land to which he had made his solemn vow to return.

General MacArthur knew no objective but victory. His creed was that for that there is no substitute. As a military commander this he steadfastly believed. Now that he has fought a good fight, and finished his course, this land of his love and prayer to which he gave full measure of devotion, bears witness that in the fierce global battle now raging for the minds of men, he never regarded the crucifixion of humanity anywhere in the world as a blight to be tolerated and endured—but as a malignant evil to be eliminated!

But his true greatness was revealed in what he purposed to do with the victory of arms as he faced a titanic task after the Peace Treaty was signed. It was then that he exercised his enlightened stewardship when, scorning any imposed humiliation, with dignity and understanding he rebuilt a conquered nation out of the ashes of defeat.

And now under the historic dome of this white shrine of each patriot's devotion there lies in honor the worn tenement of clay which housed the intrepid spirit of Douglas MacArthur as the fluttering flag for which he so valiantly fought sadly waves from sea to sea a tender farewell now that we will see his face no more.

From lips once so eloquent, now so silent, let us listen to his winged words, uttered from the surrender deck of the *Missouri* as he pointed to the supremacy of spiritual veri-

ties in the life of the nation. It is General MacArthur now speaking:

> It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past, a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man, and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice.

Such a soldier can never die, or fade away. Shall we lift our hearts in prayer—

O Thou Master of all good workmen we give Thee thanks that in human personalities there is so often made flesh Thine eternal principles of righteousness which the contaminating evil of the world cannot tarnish or erode. Even as now the great captain whom we honor this day has gone from our physical sight and side, may he return to our troubled times in a renewed determination of the Republic to face any foe, to pay any price, not that America may prevail, but that the starry ideals that give luster to freedom's banners may come to their coronation under all skies. For the fulfillment of all our fallen hero's dreams, as his brave soul goes marching on, we commend his conquering spirit into Thy hands. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1964

O Thou Master of all good workmen, with the passing from this mortal stage of a dedicated servant of Thine and of the Nation, Douglas MacArthur, we now praise famous men—men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, leaders of the people, wise and eloquent in their instruction.

Such leave a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. We give thanks that in human personalities there are so often made flesh Thine eternal principles of righteousness, which the contaminating evils of the world cannot tarnish or erode.

Especially this day we thank Thee, our God, and take courage from the uncorrupted and uncompromising record of this great captain of our time, in whose undaunted faith across all the years of his pilgrimage there ever sang—

> "Then conquer we must,
> For our cause it is just;
> And this be our motto—
> In God is our trust."

And now that he has gone on from our physical sight and side, may he return to our troubled times in a renewed determination of the Republic to face any foe, to pay any price, not that America may conquer, but that the starry ideals that give luster to freedom's banners may come to their coronation under all skies. For the fulfillment of all our fallen hero's dreams, as his brave soul goes marching on, we commend his conquering spirit into Thy hands.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, FATHER OF ALL MEN, amid encircling gloom our groping, faltering hands reach out for the assurance of Thy presence, as our fathers in every generation have sought Thee and found Thee. They faced difficulties as frowning as those that challenge our climbing feet. By faith, they were led over the peaks, to the pleasant valleys and still waters beyond.

Undergird us, we beseech Thee, with Thy might, so that no denials of human freedom by those who would enslave mankind may intimidate our souls.

When the problems which front us seem insoluble, when the shining river of our fairest dreams seems to sink into the sands of futility, still may we labor on, serene and confident, knowing that, in spite of tears in the night of hopes deferred, the joy of sure victory cometh in the morning.

We bring our prayer in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1964

God of grace, we thank Thee for sensitive hearts that thrill at every sacrament of loveliness which makes the awakening earth a tapestry of beauty. We come asking for Thy cleansing pardon, that a right spirit may be renewed within us and that we may yearn for spiritual integrity above all the tinsel of material things.

Grant us the purity of thought and the honesty of purpose which will deliver us from the dangerous sophistries which afflict our secular day when cleverness is so often elevated above goodness, and cheap humor above honor.

May the thoughts of our minds, the motives shaping our deeds, the words which pass our lips, and the meditations of our hearts be this day, and always, acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1964

O Thou companion of our pilgrim years: Another week begins, and brings its urgent round of concerns and duties.

Help those who by the trust of the people stand here in posts of high public office, in all things to be masters of themselves, that they may be the servants of others.

In times of tension and strain, be Thou to each of us a present help, waiting to live in us and to speak through us, a constant fountain of strength and power that will use our faltering weakness as a healing and illuminating channel.

Thus, in every test may we keep calm in temper, clear in mind, and pure in heart, in spite of ingratitude, misrepresentation, or even treachery.

And so, whether what is said or done in this uncoerced forum brings blame or praise, above all may there rest upon the shoulders of these spokesmen of the Republic the white mantle of unsullied honor.

In the Redeemer's name we bring our prayer. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1964

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and nations: Only when our vision is cleansed and corrected by the lure of far horizons can we be saved from the panic which lurks always in mistaken magnitudes.

To endure as seeing the invisible, we must see the transient in the light of the everlasting. May the eternal immensities shame our petty thoughts and ways.

May the vision of what we might be convict us of what we are. Save us from sitting in the seat of the scornful, of having any kinship with the cynical or fainthearted. Join us, rather, with the inspirers whose lives we have known and touched, whose spell upon our own spirits we can never escape—those whose lips were fragrant with prayer, whose eyes were radiant with hope, whose hearts

were strong with courage, and whose contagious goodness made them like lighted temples. O God, to us may grace be given to follow in their train. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: Hushing our thoughts and words to quietness, and bringing our feverish hearts to the coolness of Thy green pastures of sustaining grace, we would be still and know that Thou art God.

Always when we meet the conditions, Thou dost fulfill the promise, "I will keep that man in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Me."

In a world of suspense and suspicion and turmoil, breathe now, in this fenced-in moment we snatch from the rush of busy hours, Thy peace on hearts that pray—the calmness that steals into our jaded lives only when the jarring discords are tuned to the music of Thy will.

Then, as heralds of good will, send us forth across all the barriers of race and creed, to make our contributions to the glad day, for whose coming we toil and pray, when justice and mercy and truth shall roll down like broad rivers, and righteousness like overflowing streams, when Thy kingdom comes among men. And to the Lord of that kingdom shall be the power and the glory. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1964

O GOD, OUR FATHER, in this pavilion of prayer in which we bow day by day, as spirit with spirit may meet, we would fling open the shuttered windows of our darkened lives to the effulgence of Thy presence, that some broken beams of Thy glory may shine upon our daily work.

Teach us that to live worthily, we must have a faith fit to live by, a self fit to live with, and a cause fit to live for.

In this tragic and tangled world we are conscious of our woeful inadequacy to sit in the seats of judgment, to balance the scales of justice, and to respond with equity to the myriad calls of human need. Grant that those by the people's choice, here lifted to high pedestals in the life of the state, conscious of the great tradition in which they stand, may rise to greatness of vision and of soul as the anxious eyes of all the nations are upon this Chamber in so fear-haunted a day.

Despite the brutalities of man to his fellow man, keep love's banners floating o'er us as we march breast forward, with faith undimmed, in the ranks of those who do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God.

In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1964

Our Father, God, as the end of a draining week draws near, we pause at this wayside altar not just in a passing gesture of devotion and then to go on our busy way with our lives empty of Thee; rather we come to ask Thy presence and Thy guidance as this day and in the days that loom ahead there is faced in this Chamber the stress of decision, the strain of toil, the weight of responsibility, and the solemn call of duty.

May freedom's cause be so defended and extended in all the earth by what is done here that there will be no bitter disillusionment of mankind's hopes and no black despair in the lot of our children after us, as they take this shattered and divided planet from our hands.

We ask it in the name of that One at whose birth peace was bequeathed to all men of good will. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1964

GOD OF ALL GRACE, Thou hast taught us that even in the midst of a clamorous world, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength.

We bow at this high altar of the Nation's service, praying that in us may be maintained the fidelity of those to whom much has been given, and from whom much will be required.

Give us honesty in dealing with our besetting sins, humility in confessing them, and resolution in overcoming them.

Thou hast committed into our keeping a national heritage luminous with freedom's glorious light. For all that is America at its best, we bless Thy name; for borders without guns, for unity in diversity, and for the equality which beckons all to the summit, we lift our Te Deum of gratitude.

We pray, and we vow to work as we pray, for good government and just laws, for sound education and for a clean and fair press, for sincerity and honesty in our relations with one another and with all the peoples of the world, and for the success of the crusade to abolish pride of place in a human brotherhood without any frowning frontiers.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1964

OUR FATHER'S GOD AND OURS, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come: In the whelming waters of tribulation which this day flood the earth, Thou art a shelter from the storm, a covert from the wind, and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Give us to realize that Thou art our challenge, as well as our refuge; and that in the crises of these days, Thy voice to us is calling, in all the want and woe, in all the hunger and misery of our fellows, Thy children, in all the continents and islands of the sea.

In all that concerns mankind, may our hearts be moved with compassion that will fit us to be the dedicated heralds of Thy healing.

Teach us so to labor on while it is called day, that we may so play our part in this age on ages telling that we may face with clear conscience the gaze of our contemporaries and the judgment of posterity; and, when the fever of this life is over, at the last hear Thy "Well done; thou hast been faithful."

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1964

At the Inn of the Morning we would wait for Thee, Thou guide of our pilgrim way.

We thank Thee for this new day, for its new strength and vigor, its new hopes, and its new opportunities. Help us to meet its joys with gratitude, its difficulties with fortitude, its duties with fidelity.

When great ideas whose day has come beckon us to be their servants, save us from giving ourselves to the dead past, rather than to the creative present and to the living future.

In the tangled tragedy in which all human life is caught, help us in these trying days, rising above all that is base and small, to work together in glad and eager harmony for the honor, safety, and welfare of our Nation and of all the peoples of this stricken earth who unite in mutual good

will, dedicated to the golden goal of opening the gates of a new life for all mankind.

In the Master's name, we bring our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1964

O God from whom all blessings flow, as we stretch lame hands of prayer to Thee, grant us the benediction of Thy healing peace. Draw very near unto us. Teach us to weave the concerns of these troubled days into the perspective of the long years.

The cries of the crowds about us but bring us to confusion without and perplexity within. As, for this solemn, searching moment, the words of this Chamber are hushed to silence, breathe upon our thinking with Thy truth, breathe upon our understanding with Thy light, breathe upon our attitudes with Thy love.

May the heavy pressures of the world not mold us; but may we be so strengthened with might in the inner man that we may help mold the world nearer to the fashion of Thy righteous will. From the perplexing problems whose attempted solutions so often tend to divide us in our judgment, at this common altar of prayer we find a unit which ties us together, even amidst all the diversities of our thought.

Beset by the confusion of these days, when honest and sincere men differ, may we never forfeit our own self-respect or the confidence of those who trust us, as we dedicate our highest and best to the service of the Nation.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, at the beginning of deliberations in this forum of freedom, we come in the glad assurance, not just of our feeble hold of Thee, but, rather, of Thy mighty grasp of us.

Even as with bending backs we toil in the valley, we are grateful that the light of Thine eternal purpose falls upon our daily tasks, and that in the beauty of common things we may partake of the holy sacrament of Thy presence.

On the earth blackened by hate, we thank Thee for men and women of good will under all skies, the saving salt of a desperate world, upon whose integrity of character and upon whose understanding compassion for other nations and races the hopes of tomorrow's world rest.

Steel our hearts to be the servants of Thy will, as we serve the present age.

In the spirit and name of Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1964

O GOD OF ALL MERCY AND GRACE, we come unfilled to Thee, grateful for altars of prayer, where, on the wings of faith, moods of doubt, which oft assail us, seem treason to that changeless world where Thou dost reign in the uninvaded realm of the true and the excellent. Awaken, we pray, our powers to seize this day, wealthy with promise, lest we miss its nobler calls by our preoccupation with lesser and meaner concerns.

Finding here, as we bow in contrition, the gifts of pardon and peace, may the memory of Thy past mercies mingle like sweet incense with a strengthening assurance of Thy present nearness which no cruel violence of man's devising can snatch from those whose minds are stayed on Thee.

Whatever tests the days yet to be granted us may bring, may we toil on without crippling haste, without undue stress and strain, in the joy of Thy strength, garnering the lessons of the past, alert to the challenge of the present, and serenely confident that the future is in Thy hands when to a redeemed earth, cleansed of its iniquity, there shall rise in splendor the city of our God.

In the Redeemer's name we lift our prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1964

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, who, amidst the shifting sands of time, standest sure: Like men who turn from dusty toil to crystal streams of cleansing and refreshment, so we lift our soiled faces to Thee, from the perplexities and imperfections which crowd the common days.

As we pause now in reverent silence, may this high place of governance become the audience chamber of Thy presence. Because there is no final solution of the world's ills, save as it springs from the hearts of men, we pray for ourselves: Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

To our Nation and to ourselves, grant inner steadfastness that the rage of men may not shake. We pray for the undergirding with spiritual might of the institutions that seek the growth of character—our families, our schools, and our churches.

So strengthen the foundations of our interior resources that we may be among those who stand in the evil day, and, having done all, still stand.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, in reverence we come, while our hearts are saying, "Hallowed be Thy name." In all the tangled relationships of this mortal life, teach us to hallow our own name, keeping our honor bright, our hearts pure, our ideals untarnished, and our devotion to the Nation's weal high and true.

Amid the tests and tensions of these confused days, we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quiet and confidence.

As we touch the lives of our fellow men, teach us to value beauty of heart or of brain in any strand of our common humanity, that we may become workers together with Thee, in binding all peoples and races into the perfect unity that shall yet belt the earth with good will when Thy radiant kingdom comes.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1964

ETERNAL SPIRIT, everywhere present, but often seeming unreal or far off to us, because we willfully block the channels of our being by which Thou wouldst reach us, open our hearts now to one another—and to Thee—as together we bow at this altar which the fathers builded.

We pray for all public servants, those whom the people have called to lead, and for the citizens of this dear land, that genuine fraternity may increase among us, and that bigotry, intolerance, mutual suspicions of class and race hatred may not imperil our democracy in this day of world whirlwind.

In this solemn day of our responsibility and opportunity, guide our Nation to such use of its vast power as may cause

all the aspiring peoples of the earth to rise up and call us blessed.

We pray in the spirit of our Lord and Master. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1964

Our Father, God, with the noisy world shut out, this hallowed moment is the witness of our weakness and of how ultimately fruitless are our quests and of how futile are our arguments if, in the humility of prayer, we fail to keep the windows open to the unseen and eternal.

In the white light of Thy searching scrutiny, we would pause at this week's threshold, to examine honestly our inner desires and ruling motives, that in this temple of democracy, we may stand with pure hearts and clean hands.

As our frail hands are granted a part in the shaping of the different, fairer earth that is to be, lift us, we pray, above the foggy valley of narrow loyalties and little, partisan interests to altitudes and to a perspective which, scorning cheap shibboleths, regards always public office as a sacred trust.

In the Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1964

God, our Father, whom we seek in all our need, we come praying that through all the mystery and perplexity of life, Thou wilt keep our hearts with Thee. Show us Thy will in all the maze of paths our uncertain feet may take.

May we know Thee in the common life that entangles us. May we never lose a sense of Thy presence in the thorny questions, national and international, which confront us.

May we face these baffling days in the triumphant con-

fidence that no weapon that has been formed can prevail against Thy eternal purpose, and that Thou, our God, will not fail or be discouraged until on a cross, deep rooted in Thine own heart, Thou dost lift a willful world to the radiance of Thy love and light.

We ask it in the ever blessed name of the One who is the Light of the World. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1964

FATHER OF OUR LIFE, FOUNTAIN OF OUR BEING: In the light of Thy countenance, our pathway is illumined with eternal splendor.

Without that light we walk in the darkness of a meaningless existence which at last is blown out like a candle's flame. Without Thee as guide our boasted progress but leads to the quagmires of oblivion. Without Thee our science but whets the sword to a sharper edge and would destroy us with our own wheels and wings. Without Thee commerce cannot save us for selfish trade but lifts the hunger of covetousness to a higher pitch. Without Thee even education cannot redeem us for we know now that the mere sharpening of the intellect, the massing and mastery of facts and figures may but fit men to be tenfold more skillful in the awful art of slaughter.

And so, we pray that our deliberations here may be begun, continued, and ended in Thee, as Thou dost shatter our delusions, shine through our blindness, and shame our foolish pride.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, Thou hast set us to serve the Nation and all mankind in crucial and decisive hours. With a new world emerging from the churning waters which engulf us, help us to be vividly conscious that Thou hast committed, as a trust to our hands, the great truths that make men free.

May our individual lives be more and more the incarnation of the principles which we profess—Thy Word made flesh in us for this tortured generation. Forgive us for our keenness in seeing human failings in others and our slowness in being aware of the virtues of those who toil by our side.

Grant us sweet reasonableness in all our dealings with our fellow man, and especially with each other in these halls of State, so that when the shadows fall on our working day, we may have the supreme satisfaction of the knowledge that we have given our best to every task, and that we have faced every duty without bitterness, with charity for all, and with malice toward none.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1964

O GOD who—though all else fades—remainest the same, Thou who leavest us never, even when we leave Thee, and whose tender mercy is over all Thy works: We come at the beginning of yet another day, praying for strength for our burdens, wisdom for our responsibilities, insight for our time, and faith enough to remove mountains that loom frowningly before us.

We thank Thee for our America which still stands before the oppressed anywhere and everywhere as the symbol of the morning radiance of a joyous hope. For all afar off who sigh for liberty, for all lovers of the common people who

strive to break their shackles, for all who dare to believe in democracy and the kingdom of God's love, make Thou our great commonwealth a flaming beacon light and a guide on the path which leads to the perfect union of law and liberty.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, Thou hast taught us that the very bodies which house our spirits are to be shrines of the holy. We do not seem to ourselves temples of the sacred, but, rather, very secular houses not fit for Thy dwelling.

Yet Thou seest a temple in each of us—an altar there, even though neglected—and needs, aspirations, yearnings, and capacities, if we would but rise to our best selves.

For our own sakes and for the sake of this needy world, O, God, who hast summoned us to serve in a desperate day, cleanse us, and make us right within, that our humble temple may be alight with the divine.

We repent and are heartily sorry that we fall so far short of Thy glory, but are grateful for the eternity planted deep in our hearts, so that we are restless and dissatisfied with all but Thyself.

Even with all our imperfections, give us courage, give us vision, give us wisdom for the serving of these days.

In the Master's blessed name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, who in human hearts hast set the unquenchable impulse to build altars of worship and temples of praise: With so many tendencies in our natures that pull us downward by the gravitation of evil, we are grateful that across the national concerns of this Chamber there is a pathway, worn by many feet, leading to this wayside shrine of prayer.

As in this new day we bow in reverent acknowledgment that in Thee we live and move and have our being, so take the dimness of our souls away that we may find new joy in the loveliness of the world about us, in the strength which comes from friendship, in the conquest of difficulty, and in the enriching satisfactions of selfless service.

We ask it in the spirit of the One who is the Truth and the Life and the Way. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1964

God of all mercies, in whose love and wisdom lies our hope, still our anxious, fretful hearts as we bring our weakness to Thy might, our failure to Thy perfection, our littleness to Thy greatness.

May a renewed loyalty to the precious things we hold nearest our hearts summon all true patriots by their own example to strengthen the solidarity of our dear Nation, freedom's last, best hope, as it faces the principalities and powers of darkness which plot the destruction of this free land.

While we strengthen the Republic with freedom's might to withstand sinister forces without and within which betray and deny man's most cherished dreams of a fairer earth, save the inner life of our land, we pray, from violence, discord, and confusion and from all disrupting forces that sow suspicion, mistrust, and fear in the hearts of the people.

In the dear Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1964

God over all, whose breath is our life, whose fire lightest the lamp of our being, and feedest the flame of it: As we come out of all the confusion and perplexity of these days,

with a subduing consciousness of our personal inadequacy to meet the tests and tasks that face us, hear the prayer of our hearts:

Breathe on me, breath of God
Till I am wholly Thine,
Till all this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

We are grateful for this white altar of prayer, reared at the threshold of this forum of a people's will, which speaks of our final reliance on the supreme spiritual factors which alone abide, and on which our salvation and the salvation of all men in the end depend.

As workers together with Thee, may we have a part in building the new world for which brave men have paid the costly price, a fairer earth wherein all nations may dwell together in trust and fellowship.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1964

Our Father, God, whose love passeth our understanding, and whose mercy is wider than the sea, we turn to Thee, realizing that Thy purpose for us is vaster than is the reach and range of any prayer we may bring.

In all the plans here made for the governance of the Nation in these times that are trying our souls, may Thy wisdom prevail at last over all our fallible judgments. Where there is anything unworthy, purify it; where there is error, correct it; where there is right, establish it; where there is division, unite it.

In all the ministry of public affairs, keep our hearts, we pray, from envy, hatred, and malice. In our thoughts and

words, may there constantly be revealed the grace of courtesy and of understanding kindness.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1964

O Thou whose throne is truth, in a turbulent time we would wait at noontide to set our hearts in tune with the infinite, so that in the whirl of pressing tasks we may be preserved from impatience and depression.

In the midst of feverish social ferment where the lowest so commonly is the loudest, we desperately need in each day of deliberation a shrine of reverence, to give the Highest a chance at our lives. So give us, we beseech Thee, ears to hear not just the strident shouts of the noisy streets, but also the still voice heard only in the inner chamber.

If this weary flesh of ours, faced by clever and determined foes, should fear and falter, keep us firm and steadfast, as we put on the whole armor of faith and hope and love, strengthened by the realization that ours is also a time of splendor, bright with promise as we stand at the portals of a more glorious tomorrow for all men.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1964

Our Father, God: Trusting only in Thy mercy, we seek the assurance of Thy face and of Thy guiding hand. Nothing in our hands we bring—our selfish hands, so often grasping fleeting baubles; we wait in contrition for Thy benediction.

As we turn to a noisy world, steel our hearts to meet its tirades and threats with quiet strength and with patience that does not explode into anger. May we face falsehood resolutely with the truth over which at last no weapon can prevail. Even amid a barrage of abuse from those who in their blindness imagine a vain thing, keep our hearts steady, our speech temperate, and our desire for a just peace our ruling passion, knowing that he that keepeth his own heart is greater than he that taketh a city.

In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1964

O MERCIFUL GOD, whose law is truth, and whose statutes stand forever: At this altar of Thy grace, we bow, seeking the renewal of our inner strength, for these are troublous times; and we who would be the servants of Thy will, stand in need of courage, fortitude, and stability.

We pray for the undergirding with Thy might of those who in this Chamber are lifted into the ministry of public service, that putting aside mere partisan divisions, they may be given tallness of stature to see, above the flimsy curtains of prideful opinion, the good of the largest number.

With such ominous threats from beyond our borders, forbid that the precious fuel of our national unity be spilled upon the ground, to ignite selfish fires. May that oil of a patriotism pure and undefiled still feed the flame of freedom's torch as it enlightens the whole darkened earth.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1964

MERCIFUL FATHER, whose faithfulness is constant, with all our fickleness, and whose forgiveness outlasts all our transgressions against Thy holy love: We bemoan the delusions which so often have led us to mistake shadows for substance. We confess that, as a nation, by the opiate of our own boastful achievements in the past, we have been lulled into a cushioned optimism.

May the costly agitations and testings of these embittered days be but as the refiner's fire for our democracy, consuming the dross and bringing out the pure gold of government by and for the people. Give us to realize that blind hatred wears itself out, that all violence spends itself in the futile struggle, and that in the end only the gentle and the loving endure, and only that which selflessly serves is permanent, as at last the meekness which is not weakness will inherit a cleansed and redeemed earth.

We ask it in the name of the One in whom the might of meekness is forever revealed. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, from all the deceitful poses of the ways of men, we turn to Thee, to whom every thought of every heart is fully known, and from whom no secrets are hid.

In the revealing mirror of prayer the speeding, jostling world, with its show and sham which constantly impinge upon us, is shut out, as in the light of Thy presence, we see only ourselves as we really are. As we look steadily at our own image, we pour contempt on all our pride.

In our ignorance and weakness, we pray that out of the richness of Thy grace, Thou wilt pour into the earthen vessel of our imperfection, courage and wisdom and under-

standing compassion, as we face the somber specters of hatred, misery, and ill will that stalk our darkened earth.

In all our human relationships, wherever our lives touch the lives of Thy other children, O Thou who taketh away the sins of the world, forgive us that so little of Thy love hath reached others, through us; cleanse us, and make us Thy channels of healing; and lead us in the paths of righteousness, for Thy name's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1964

O God, whose rule is law, but whose name is love, Thou hast given us this wide and wonderful earth where Thou hast housed us as royal children.

Help us never to grow dull to all its wonders, nor lose the mystic luster of the changing pageant of earth and sky and sea.

Join us, we pray, to the seers and prophets of the past who have ever gone ahead of the crowd, to climb the beckoning hilltops of humanity's highest hopes. Keep us, we beseech Thee, from absorption in our own selves and from irritable haste as we face the tasks Thou hast set before us, for us to accomplish. Deliver us, and especially those who stand above their fellows in posts of public office, from the arrogance and corruption which lurk in earthly power and pedestals. Help us to know that when we forget Thee, whatever we build is labor lost; that only in Thy life is our enduring life, and only in Thy will is our peace.

In the name of Christ, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1964

Our Father God: To this ancient altar of our deepest faith, we come at the beginning of another day of deliberation seeking light upon our darkened way, and strength and

cleansing within, remembering that out of the heart are the issues of life.

Teach us to value a conscience void of offense and the royalty of self-respect above all the pedestals, prizes, and preferments popular acclaim can offer.

With Thy benediction upon them, may those who here speak and act for the state in this Chamber of debate and decision be loyal to the royal in themselves, seeking always the kingdom within whose radiant qualities are its faith, its starry ideals, its visions of beauty, and its aspirations that lay hold of spiritual verities.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1964

Our Father who revealest Thyself to us in all that is pure, and true, and lovely: we beseech Thee to help us make our hearts and minds the fitting audience chambers for Thy presence.

Give us the courage in all things to be masters of ourselves that we may be the servants of all. In meeting grave issues, growing out of the failures of our own democracy, and out of the human problems of the world so largely in the chains of bondage, reveal to us what is wrong with ourselves. Make us vividly conscious that we cannot meet and conquer prejudice, hatred, and rampant self-seeking at home, and aggression abroad, with material weapons only; but that our own hearts must be the homes of love and purity and honesty, if we are to become Thy instruments for transforming the world to Thy radiant purpose for all mankind.

In these crucial and creative days enable Thy servants here in posts of high public office to perform faithfully and well

what Thou dost require, even to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee, our God.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, clouds and darkness are around Thee; yet righteousness and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne, which is established forever upon the moral pillars of the universe.

In times heavy with crisis, Thou hast called us, as servants of the people, to play our part in one of the creative hours in human history. In the midst of the startling changes of our day, may we be delivered from the paralysis of pessimism and cynicism.

Strengthen our hearts and minds, that we may worthily measure up to the role we are called to play in these solemn days, as in the name of a free people ours is the high privilege of signing anew, with our own dedication and sacrifice, the immortal declaration crimsoned with the devotion of the Founding Fathers, as for the perpetuity of this Union we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, in a world so full of change and decay, by the still waters and green pastures of Thy abiding presence, we would keep alive our faith in values that are permanent, and our reliance on the Kindly Light which, if our hearts keep their meekness and purity, will shine through all the shadows of our confusions and uncertainties.

We lift our petitions for those who in such a day serve here in the ministry of national concerns, that their words and counsels, so laden with possibilities to affect the life of the Nation and of the whole earth, may add to the world's store of good will and be for the healing of the open sores which afflict mankind.

And now, as—after the wearying strife of tongues—each Member of this body of governance stands in the sovereignty of his own uncoerced conscience, may a voice resound in every individual soul standing in the valley of decision, saying with comforting and strengthening reassurance—

Men may misjudge thy aim,
Think they have cause for blame,
Say thou art wrong.
Hold on thy quiet way;
God is the judge—not they.
Fear not—be strong.

Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1964

O Thou God of grace and glory, by thronging duties pressed, we pause reverently for this dedicated moment at our daily altar of prayer.

We are grateful that amid all life's vicissitudes and buffetings, its strain and stress, "from every stormy wind that blows, from every swelling tide of woes, there is a calm—a sure retreat."

And so, facing tests of wisdom that are beyond our puny, fallible powers, for the solving of national problems which loom before those whom the people have chosen, we ask for them a strength that is not their own. We fain would join the exultant company who, across all the centuries, have been able to chant with victorious gladness,

"I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

Give us a common faith that any tyranny over the bodies and minds of men carries with it its own death germs, and that at last on the calendar of the future the coronation of Thy truth is sure. In that confidence we march on to the coming kingdom of Thy grace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, we thank Thee for the sweet refreshment of sleep, restoring the frayed edges of care, and for the beckoning glory and the fresh vigor of a new day.

Kindle, we pray, on the altar of our hearts a flame of devotion to freedom's cause in all the world, that in its white heat shall be consumed every grosser passion.

True to that cause, to which we commit our all, enable us to fill swift hours with worthy deeds, and to bear the fret of care, the sting of criticism, and the drudgery of unapplauded toil.

May our one passion be to strike our blow for freedom and to keep to the end of our brief day the unbroken vigil of the inner light, leaving the world the better for our sojourn in it.

As Thou dost override the errors of our faulty judgments, help us to heal the divisions which shorten the arm of our national might as we stand at the crossroads of history.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1964

O GOD, in whose strong hands are the threads of every man's life, and who under all the wild commotion of days like these dost still control the evil forces which seem for the

moment to defeat Thy purpose and hinder Thy Kingdom: Into Thy hands we would commit our lives, with all their powers and all their desires.

We come with heavy burdens on our minds and hearts for our Nation and for the world. We come with deep anxiety concerning the future our children will inherit from our hands. In a world so uncertain about so many things, we are sure of no light but Thine, no refuge but in Thee. Through all the mystery of life, Thy strong arm alone can lead us to its mastery. With Thy benediction, may we face the toil of this day with honest dealing and clear thinking, with hatred of all hypocrisy and shame, and with integrity worthy of the trust the Nation has committed to our hands.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1964

Our Father, God, with silenced hearts listening for Thy voice, we wait for Thy word, for in Thee only do we find light for life's meaning, wisdom for life's questions, strength for its duties, and courage for its unknown ways.

In these vernal days, thrilling and throbbing with the gardened loveliness of nature, standing knee deep in summer glory, we thank Thee for every sacrament of beauty of which our enraptured senses partake.

In all the anguish of the world's confusion and uncertainty, save us from being little persons in a big day. Forgetting the unworthy things that are behind, and stretching forth to the better things of a fairer world which are before, enable us to lay aside the weight of prejudice and the sins of covetousness that do so easily beset us, as with glad and eager feet we march with those who go to free, not to bind; to develop, not to rule; to cooperate, not to dominate; until

the knowledge of the Lord, who is no respecter of persons, shall at last cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1964

O THOU who dost speak to listening hearts in the holy hush of the dawn and in the brooding quietness of the evening, speak to us now, we pray, in the heat and burden of noontide's toiling, as the white scroll of a new day unfolds before us.

Give us this day our daily bread, not only of physical renewal, but also of spiritual sustenance, lest our souls starve in the far country of neglect or indulgence. May the eternal immensities shame our little, unworthy thoughts and ways. May those who have been here called to administer the affairs of the Nation make daily choice of spiritual integrity, amid the corruption that is in the world through the lust of power, that, being unafraid, they may contend steadfastly for the right, as Thou dost give them to see the right.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1964

ETERNAL SPIRIT, high over all, blessed forever, whose dwelling is the light of setting suns, the round ocean, the living air, the blue sky, and in the minds of man: We lift our hearts to Thee who makest Thyself known to us in the stillness. Even as we come to the altar of prayer, our minds are plagued with questions we cannot answer as to how humanity, with the dread secrets of nature in its fumbling hands, can learn to live on this planet in peace and security.

O God, the answers for which we gropingly seek in the darkness of our devices are hidden in Thy heart. Nourish within us, we pray, a divine discontent that we may be restless and unsatisfied among the things that spoil the music of our common humanity. Amid all the distractions of this complicated, modern life of ours, keep our hearts childlike and trustful, that the gates of the kingdom of meekness, closed to the merely clever and conceited, may be opened unto us as we come in the simplicity as it is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: From the jubilation of the Nation's joyous remembrance of heroic bequests from the costly past, we come with bowed heads and grateful hearts, praying that grace may be ours to hallow the deeds of the yesterdays and to remember that not annual observances, but eternal vigilance, is the price of liberty, and that each generation must earn the right to keep it.

In all the national agitation that privileges guaranteed to all shall be open to all, may there be among all elements of our favored people a solemn acknowledgment of the rights which the state, whose very breath is freedom, requires for itself of every loyal citizen.

Give, we pray, to those who are anxiously claiming their birthright the realization that among the rights claimed by the Republic is the obligation of those who enjoy liberty to practice in all human relationships the Golden Rule, to give loyal obedience to the Nation's laws, to strive to increase the store of understanding and good will, and that each citizen worthy of freedom, jealous of the total strength of the commonwealth, shall have as his highest joy, not what he takes, but what he gives.

We ask it in the Name of the One who was the servant of all. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1964

O Thou God of love and hope, through all the length of changing years Thy goodness faileth never.

In a day so full of fear and threat, save us from any panic of spirit, because our inner strength is drawn from deep wells.

With the light of Thy wisdom and the strength of Thy grace, enable those who in these baffling times have been entrusted with the stewardship of the national welfare to be true servants of Thine in the advancement of Thy kingdom's cause.

Grant us to feel the passion of high resolve as we cherish above all else the compelling mission to which Thou hast called us as a nation—to help lead a groping world from the darkness into the light.

We ask it in the name of the dear Redeemer, who is the Light of the World. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1964

O Thou God of our salvation: To Thee we lift our hearts in prayer, bringing nothing but our need and the adoration of our contrite hearts.

Before the white splendor of Thy purity, every vileness shrinks away. In Thy light, lift us above the mists of the immediate, and set our perspectives in the wide horizons of abiding verities. In a tangled day, fraught with destiny for the whole world, curb wild tongues which have not

Thee in awe. And here in this Chamber, with all mankind looking and listening, let all bitterness, wrath, clamor, and evil speaking be put away, with all malice.

God of justice, save our people
From the clash of race and creed.
From the strife of class and faction
Make our Nation free indeed.
Keep her faith in simple goodness,
Strong as when her life began;
Till it finds its full fruition
In the brotherhood of man.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: As another morning climbs to the hour before noon, ascending this hill of the Lord, may we breathe the pure air above the dusty plains of the trivial and the temporary, finding here an altar of pardon and of peace.

May the memory of Thy past mercies mingle like sweet incense with a strengthening assurance of Thy present nearness which no malignancy or cruelty of man's devising can snatch from those whose minds are stayed on Thee.

Our hearts grow faint in the dusty futilities of our foolish pride. The cries of the crowd about us but bring us to confusion without and perplexity within. Grant us vision and wisdom that by the decisions here made our Nation may have a part in making earth's crooked things straight, when, at last, social and industrial relations will lose their hard antagonism, and will become the hallowed cooperation of comrades in common human service.

We ask it in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, who hast been the hope and strength of the passing generations, and who in all ages hast given men the power to seek Thee, and seeking Thee to find Thee: To these servants dedicated to the public welfare, grant, we beseech Thee, a clearer vision of Thy might, a greater reliance on Thy unlimited resources, and such a confident assurance of the final victory of Thy kingdom of love, as to dispel all gloom. Forbid that any of us should be so blinded by self-deceit as to assume that that kingdom can come only along the path of our opinions.

We humbly pray Thy kingdom come, even though the way of its coming may veto our timetables and our personal prescriptions for the cure of evils that blight the life of today.

We pray in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 27, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, to whom all souls are dear, and whose tender mercies are over all Thy works: We bow in the stillness of this historic Chamber, with the solemn realization that every thought of every heart is fully known to Thee. Cleanse Thou our hearts from all that is petty and unworthy of our best. Through our thoughts, our words, and our actions, may there ever shine the spirit of courtesy and kindness, even in differences of judgment and viewpoint, as the servants of the Nation here wrestle with problems that affect the weal or woe of the Nation and the world.

In times so fraught with peril and shadowed with the sinister designs of men who imagine a vain thing, by Thy sustaining grace may we face today's struggle bravely, in Thy name, confident that no matter how long the day or how

deeply entrenched the wrong, no weapon formed can finally thwart Thy holy will.

In the dear Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1964

O God, our shelter from life's stormy blasts, and our eternal home: We come with confidence, not in our feeble hold of Thee, but in Thy mighty grasp of us as we trust the love that will not let us go. Undergird, we pray Thee, Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs who, in this temple of a people's hope, give their consent to enactments which mirror the Nation's inflexible creed that by divine decree mankind everywhere is crowned with infinite worth and dignity, the right to abundant life, and unfettered freedom.

Make our dedication to the national welfare, we pray Thee, a channel for the healing streams of Thy grace as, having been blessed with Thy love without measure, we may obey Thy behest—in an earth which now is one neighborhood, regardless of border or breed or birth—to love our neighbor as ourself.

We make our prayer in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1964

Dear Lord and Master of mankind, whose loving kindness and tender mercies faileth never, and whose fatherly compassion reaches unto the ends of the earth: As the toiling hours of another day are upon us, we come with bowed and reverent hearts, asking that our attitudes toward each other and toward all men may become avenues of purity, goodness, brotherhood, and peace.

Forgive our foolish, feverish ways, our petulant impatience, our lack of perspective. May we listen, not to what the hour, with all its din and clamor, is saying, but to the more potent voice of the long years.

In a shaken world, may we feel firmly beneath our feet the things that cannot be shaken. May the solid rock of spiritual verities give us a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe; for Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the victory forever. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, who hast cast our lot in pleasant places, by Thy grace Thou hast led us from perilous beginnings to this decisive day of testing and destiny, facing with compassion a world in commotion where multitudes are groping with darkened minds or are bound in the fetters of tyranny. May our free land, united in spirit, with a passion to serve all mankind, find the pathway leading onward to the plains of universal peace.

And now, as the flag dips once more in sorrow for a loss, and in honor of a life, it speaks to all who behold its fluttering folds of a devoted and able Member of this body. We look up to Thee in gratitude for the long service of CLAIR ENGLE to his State and to the Nation.

Out of great tribulation, he has gone from the close fellowship of this Chamber of governance, where, by his personal qualities, he won the respect and affection of his colleagues.

Now he has left us with the memory of a brave fight across poignant months, when, in spite of grievous bodily affliction, he proved that his mind and his heart were still dwelling on the vital matters which centered here.

In this devastating loss, as the sun has gone down while it was still day, vouchsafe unto his loved ones—especially to the companion who has watched so faithfully by his side—the consolations of Thy sustaining grace. And above all, give us and them the radiant assurance that what we call death is but the portal to an ampler room in the Father's many-mansioned house.

We ask it in the name of the One who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1964

Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts, and grant that in this temple of legislation Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs may serve Thee in the beauty of holiness.

For every spiritual insight which discerns that which lies beyond the faulty and superficial, and finds sermons in stones and good in everything; for every heavenly treasure which satisfies the heart, so that for its sake men have gladly surrendered the cheap and sordid; for heavy weights which turn into wings as they increase strength and gladden the spirit; for all doors of opportunity which swing open on hinges of service to humanity; and for the radiant hope—even amid tasks that sometimes are grim and drab—which sends its shining ray far down the future's broadening way, we praise Thy name, as in the heat and burden of this new day we lift lame hands of prayer to Thee, from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1964

God of all life, in whose presence is no darkness at all: As we bow in contrition before Thee, the bewildering voices of the noisy world about us are hushed into a sacramental

silence. Whenever we really turn to Thy light, all arrogance is rebuked and pride of opinion is mocked. We confess that at best we but grope in the shadows, that our sight is dim, our knowledge partial, and our judgments fallible.

Make us honest and honorable enough to bear the vision of the truth, wherever it may lead; to cast aside all pretense; and to despise all compromise and expediency which warp the soul. We ask it in the name of Him who is the Light and the Truth. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1964

Our Father, who art the God of our world and all worlds: However, men on this little swinging orb may picture Thee, Thou art the God of all the earth. If we take the wings of the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of this globe which is our home—behold, Thou art there. As we, Thy earth children, go on our boundless quest of other worlds, it is but to find that Thou art the center and soul of every sphere.

In this epochal day, when from earth we are gazing with a new wonder at the first close-range views of the rugged surface of our nearest space neighbor—a dead world which lifts the tides and softens the night—may we thrill even more at the prophetic picture, brought near, of our own earth when the Son of Righteousness shall illumine its dark places; when true brotherhood shall bridge all the deep chasms of misunderstanding, and deserts of hot anger and racial rancor shall blossom as the rose; when at last on this tiny sphere Thy kingdom shall come as Thy will is done; when in every heart and brain shall throb the pulse of one fraternity.

With this radiant picture of a new heaven and a new earth ever before our eyes, strengthen us to dedicate our brief

years here to help bring this heavenly vision to the waiting earth.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, who hast set in man's heart the impulse to rear altars of prayer and temples of praise: Thou hast placed us in a world of beauty and wonder. In spite of all the evils dealing with shackles and chains that stalk the earth, we thank Thee for human kindness, for hope that shines undimmed, for faith that is dauntless, and for all the qualities of high personality that cannot be bought.

In the preservation, anywhere in the world, of these virtues, which is our high calling, grant us the supreme satisfaction that we are on Thy side, O God of justice and honor and freedom.

As we face all that rampant evil can do to thwart Thy beneficent purpose for all Thy children, strengthen our arm with the ancient assurance that though a host encamp against us, our hearts shall not fear; though war should rise against us, even then will we be confident.

Through all that we do or say here, use us, we pray Thee, as ambassadors of good will, so that at the end of the day, without stumbling or stain, we may deserve the benediction of Thy "Well done."

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, who art the living reality behind and beyond all life's fleeting shadows: In these anxious days, still filled with the alarms of strife, as in all the world the forces

of freedom mass their moral and material might against rampant evil which seeks to enslave the world, may there shine in splendor before our eyes the spiritual objectives for which we pledge our all.

Keep us, we beseech Thee, vividly aware that the global battle which rages between the darkness and the light can never be won by force of material arms alone.

In this historic Chamber, within whose walls in the vanished yesterdays the faith of democracy was proclaimed by eloquent voices, may we this day, in all the dangers we face, lift with confidence and gratitude the banners which proclaim our faith in the sovereignty of God and the dignity of man.

By Thy grace, bring us at least to a nobler and better tomorrow, with freedom and equality and justice under all skies.

And Thine shall be the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1964

Dear God and Father of us all, whate'er our name or sign: For this hushed and dedicated moment, gather our wandering minds and our wayward wills into Thy secret place, where even before voices here are lifted, concerning the affairs of these distraught times, we may have ears to hear a Voice whose guiding, if followed, will help us rightly to interpret the signs of these trying days.

Hasten, we pray, through us the day of an ampler life for all, when every member of Thy human family will dwell in safety among his neighbors, free from gnawing want, free from torturing fears, free to speak his thoughts, and free to choose his altar of worship.

On the tablets of our hearts, may there be written Thy decrees.

We ask it in the ever blessed name of Him who is the Way. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1964

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, whose providential care hath woven from innumerable strands the finer fabric of our Nation's life: Accept our grateful thanks for the priceless heritage of the freedom which is ours to preserve and to defend against sterner odds than those any other generation has faced since the Liberty Bell rang at the birth of the Nation.

Through our imperfect petitions, framed by our frailties, enter Thou the workshop of our daily duties, so that the house of our lives may be filled with music which vibrates in joy only when our hands touch the chords of another's need. Then may even our feverish dissatisfactions be changed to a peace which slips through the grasping fingers of all self-seeking.

As in a tumultuous world so full of alarms, we face all that this new week may bring of tests and tasks, keep our heart's singing—

> This is my Father's world.
> O let me ne'er forget
> That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
> God is the Ruler yet.

We ask it in the name of the One for whose law the continents and the isles of the sea do wait. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1964

O THOU MASTER OF ALL GOOD WORKMEN: Amid the tumult of these earth-shaking days, when so many of Thy children around the wide globe are seeking and demanding more

abundant life, we come to this shrine of Thy grace with the unshaken assurance of those whose minds are stayed on Thee. At this altar of prayer, steady us with a realization that back of all the commotion now stirring the world, there is the permanent good of Thy purpose for all mankind, to which we must be loyal if life on this planet is to be saved from frustration at last.

We would that our wills would glow with holy zeal to do Thy will, and that to our eyes would come the far look of a faith in things that will abide beyond our earthly years. So we pray that Thou will direct, control, and suggest this day all we design or do or say.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1964

O God of grace and glory, we would yield our flickering torch to the steady flame of Thy redeeming love. Thou hast taught us that our personalities are made to be the temples of Thy Holy Presence. Against defilement by impious hands of the inner shrine, anywhere in the world, where Thou hast housed Thy children, we pledge a dedication and a sacrifice from which no cost can hold us back.

Forbid that any actions or attitudes of ours should ever deny or betray the white principles for which on land and sea, under skies far from home, many of our sons are paying the last full measure of devotion. Along the road of this day and of every day may we walk with Thee in the bright fellowship of those who seek a just and righteous peace, and who, for the attainment of that golden goal, will march breast forward, vowing that in Thy strength we will keep the faith.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1964

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, with whom there is no shadow that is caused by turning: Conscious that in this rough and rushing world, there is constantly upon us the hot breath of malice and envy, even though it is the passion of our hearts to stoop to human needs, even as the good Samaritan, breathe on us, breath of God, fanning to flame our feeble faith, that the dross which weights the wings of our spirits may be consumed.

As those into whose unworthy hands has been placed the crying needs of stricken humanity, guide, we pray, with Thy pure wisdom those who here take counsel for the Nation and for the stewardship of our Republic in all the earth, that in the might of human brotherhood Thy Kingdom will go forward until the earth is filled with a transforming knowledge and practice of Thy love, which yearns to lift to the radiance of Thy light a world which lieth in darkness. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1964

OUR FATHERS' GOD AND OURS: We lift to Thee our grateful hearts for a national heritage that has come down to us, bought by toils and tears other than our own. Help us this day with vivid vision to see, as a cloud of witnesses, those of old who feared Thy name and handed on to us the torch of the Nation's righteousness.

May those who now serve the public weal be wise interpreters of Thy eternal law, brave spokesmen of Thy will and of Thy truth which makes men free from ancient wrongs. Make our America a nation Thou canst trust and bless. May our Republic, purged of its failings and confessing its

failures, be the instrument in Thy hands for world security and stability—a flaming light of liberty for all the earth.

In the Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: 'Mid all the traffic of our busy ways, we are grateful for this quiet cloister of the spirit.

Guide us, we pray, to the sources of moral energy so that Thy completeness may be linked to the limitations of our unaided strength. Thou knowest that the circumstances of our times are dismaying and the resources of our souls inadequate unless Thou replenish them. For the tasks of this, another week, may Thy servants here in the ministry of the Nation's welfare be patient in argument, charitable in judgment, and slow to wrath.

Solemnize us with the responsibility of ability, as untold millions look eagerly to these halls of council for the wise word and the right action.

We ask it in the Spirit of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1964

O GOD, OUR FATHER, beyond whose brooding care we cannot drift: In the glory and vigor of a new morning, we lift our care-worn hearts to Thee, as once more we set our faces toward waiting tasks and toil.

Through countless channels, Thou dost seek our lives. At many a door Thou dost stand and knock. Save us from being so preoccupied with things that are born but for one brief day that we heed not the gentle accents of Thy

call. Hearken to the prayers of our hearts when, in our highest moments, we forget ourselves and think of Thee.

Beyond our sad confusion,
Our strife of speech and sword,
Our wars of class and Nation,
We wait Thy certain word.
The meek and poor of spirit
Who, in Thy promise trust,
Thy kingdom shall inherit
The blessing of the just.

May the benediction of that blessing crown our lives at last. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1964

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hath made us in Thine image and likeness, and hast implanted within us unquenchable desires which the material world can never satisfy: As citizens of a world that carries on its sagging shoulders problems of human relationships and burdens of suffering greater than humanity has ever borne, make us inwardly adequate to be Thy ministers of reconciliation.

In this day of crashing systems, save us from being prophets of gloom and of doom. Even as we peer at the fiery destruction of the old, may there be vouchsafed to us hopeful vistas of a richer, fairer earth to be.

In this faith, steel our hearts to march forward toward the clean world our hands can help to mold.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: Thou dost so fill all things with Thy glory, that earth and sky and sea but thinly veil Thy presence. For the beauty which colors the earth, for the love

which hallows our homes, for the joy which springs from work worthy of our best, we thank Thee—the source of all pure gladness.

As we bow before Thee, open our eyes, we pray, to the faults and failings which mar the life of our Republic. Make us conscious of the evils in ourselves that we so readily condemn in others. Make us tall enough for these testing days. Cast out our pride—national, racial, and personal. Join us to those who labor to bring sense and system to this disordered globe; and grant that our eyes may yet look upon a world that will have found a path leading to the plains of peace, universal and righteous.

In the name of the Prince of Peace, we ask it. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1964

ETERNAL SPIRIT, in whom alone are the strength of our hearts and the hope of our world, with penitent hearts we come in our noontide fellowship of prayer, not so much to seek Thee as to open our faltering lives to Thy waiting strength.

Now, as from deserted halls, after great conclaves on both the bounding seas, the tumult and the shouting have died, and the political captains and kings have departed, give to the Nation's leaders, we pray, facing unfinished tasks, as they deliberate once more in this shrine of each patriot's devotion, the solemn realization that "Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice, an humble and a contrite heart."

Differing in their appraisals of national trends and world affairs, give to Thy servants, as they take their places in this Chamber, the grace of tolerance which, while it may question the judgment of others, does not impeach their sincerity or integrity.

In all the disputes and divergencies of the coming months, as public questions are argued before the jury of the national citizenship, may those who speak, and the millions who weigh the spoken words, not depart in spirit or motive from the altar of personal responsibility or from the prayer there lifted—

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And Crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

We ask it in the ever-blessed name of the one whose applied truth makes all men free. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

ALMIGHTY GOD, ETERNAL LOVE: Thou source of all life and light, we would yield our flickering torch to Thee.

Amid the whirlwind of national debate and decision, rocked by the earthquake of today's social dislocations, we bow in this hallowed shrine of our dear-bought liberties to listen for the still, small voice.

We are grateful for the Republic's inspiring witness, that her democratic processes run so deep in her very life that they are undisturbed even by inner lawlessness or outer assaults by those who have not Thee in awe, and that our America still stands, with lamp held aloft, a beacon of freedom for all the earth.

Make our bodies Thy temple, and our hearts Thine altar, where the sacred fire is ever burning.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1964

GOD OF ALL WISDOM: Away from the confusion of tongues, we turn to this quiet pavilion of prayer. For this searching moment, may the bewildering voices of the world about us and the clamor of wordy arguments be hushed.

We would yield ourselves to Thee as we are, with all our failures and our ignorance and our self-will, and yet with the climbing aspirations of our better nature.

Make us honest and honorable enough to bear the vision of the truth, wherever it may lead; to cast away all pretense, together with the pettiness of our spirits and the craven fear of our hearts.

Break down the narrow boundaries of our minds that shut out so much more than they shut in. Teach us the value of beauty of heart and of brain in any strand of our common humanity, that we may become workers, together with Thee, in binding the races of men into the perfect unity that will yet belt the earth with good will when Thy radiant kingdom comes.

In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1964

ALL GLORY AND THANKSGIVING BE TO THEE, ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, for Thy tender mercy and Thy loving kindness, which have followed us all the days of our lives.

Make us free by the truth which Thou dost reveal to us while our minds are stayed on Thee, and our souls—eased of strain and stress—are kept in perfect peace. We humble ourselves before Thee as we confess our part as individuals and as a nation in the pride and greed which have loosed terror and strife upon the earth.

Too often lulled by our cushioned ease, we have viewed with indifference the plight of our enslaved and exploited fellows. Give us to see, with eyes startled by the revelations which these fiery days are bringing, that there are class and race chasms which must be bridged, that there are festering sores which must be healed, and that there are glaring inequalities which must be leveled if this Nation, under God, is to be worthy of her brave warriors, who even now, half a world away, are giving their all, that liberty, trampled by tyrants, may arise and shine with healing rays, all glorious in beauty and strength.

We bring our prayer in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1964

LORD OF ALL BEING, who holdest the world in Thy hand, and to whom all souls are dear: At another day's noontide, as representatives of the public trust come to counsel for the Nation's good, by their dedication make them worthy of these days of world destiny.

In this quiet moment, emptied of the strife of tongues, lifting our eyes to far horizons above the rampart confusions of the present, may today be seen in its true perspective.

Give us to discern that so often the things that disturb and agitate us most, and which loom so close to our eyes, are like the grass which groweth up: In the morning, it flourisheth and groweth up; in the evening, it is cut down and withereth. Save us, we pray, from the paralysis of mistaken magnitudes. Grant us a constant awareness of eternal principles, white and winning, whose paramount and permanent constancy arches the ages.

We ask it in the name whose truth is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1964

GRACIOUS GOD, OUR FATHER: As we bow at this altar of Thy grace, we are conscious that if we live a life of prayer, Thou art present everywhere.

Thou knowest that our lot is cast in fearsome times when we face, in an embittered world, those who have sworn to destroy our liberty and to enslave the world with fetters for the body and the mind.

May we ever be jealous for a just and righteous peace; but while we would be harmless as doves, we would at the same time be wise as serpents, lest we, ourselves, be the unwitting agents for betraying and destroying the free heritage of the generations following.

May we follow the gleam of the highest and best we know, as it leads o'er moor and fen and crag and torrent, till the evening comes and the fever of life is over and our work done.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, who hath taught us that only in the reach of our love is the richness of our life, and that we are only as big as our sympathies and our understanding of others: May no concern for self, or ill will for others, blur in our minds the goal of our glorious destiny, as the instruments of Thy providence, to free the earth of tyranny. To this end, our God, bless America.

Grant us the grace to cherish and preserve ever more the heritage that is ours through the valor and virtue of those whose records within these very Halls have helped make the greatness of our Nation. Inspire those who now serve here to follow their shining example, that we may not only

hold our inheritance as a sacred and precious trust, but also by our love and labor leave it with increased luster to those who come after us.

We ask it in the Master's name and in His Spirit. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1964

ETERNAL GOD, spirit of light and truth, of beauty and freedom, bestow upon us, we pray, Thy sustaining grace, that our strength fail not, nor the vision splendid fade, as we toil on in the heat and burden of the day.

Protect us from every evil way, that when evening comes, there may be no stain or shame on our record. To this end, give us this day the grace of a grateful heart and an uncomplaining spirit; the grace of courage to stand for what our conscience tells us is the right; the grace of silence, that we may refrain from unkind speech; the grace of charity, that we may not give way to hasty judgment; the grace of refusing to conform, rather than to crucify our convictions; and in all and through all the quiet confidence that,

> We steadier step when we recall
> That though we slip, Thou dost not fall.

We ask it in the name of the One who is able to keep us from falling and to lead us on from strength to strength. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1964

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose keeping are the destinies of men and nations, imbue with wisdom those whose lips here speak for the Nation, as they face decisions always with the background of fearful forces of nature which, if not harnessed by mutual good will, may destroy us utterly.

Give us greatness of soul, that the stubborn ounces of our strength may be used to open doors, not of peril, but of plenty, for the whole earth. So distill upon us the dews of quietness and confidence, that in simple trust and deeper reverence we may be found steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in Him, and for Him, and with Him, our labor is not in vain.

So, send us forth with serenity and calm to meet an agitated world with an unruffled tranquillity which is strength, and an inner candor which is the courage of the soul.

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1964

FATHER OF ALL MANKIND: In the midst of luring evil, which so often is clothed in shining garments of deceit, grant us, we pray Thee, the steadying vision of Thy eternal goodness.

We give Thee thanks for the high souls of the yesterdays which are our cloud of witnesses today, and who still urge us on to deathless goals. Join us to that company of souls supreme—the conscripts of a mighty dream.

In a day when all we value most seems to be at the mercy of what we value least, so direct Thy servants who here serve the Republic, that the best which is expected of them, and of which their dedicated faculties are capable, may be brought to bear, without fear or favor, upon the confused issues of this baffling day.

Give us such courage and patience in defending high principles, despite any temporary disheartenment, that the children of coming generations will rise up and call us blessed.

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD: In all the stress and strain of the tasks whose weight is laid upon the shoulders of all who faithfully serve the Nation in times such as these, we turn to Thee with the solemn realization that—

Our strength is dust and ashes;
Our years, a passing hour;
But Thou canst use our weakness
To magnify Thy power.
From ease and plenty, save us;
From pride of place, absolve.
Purge us of low desire;
Lift us to high resolve.

And Thine shall be the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1964

O GOD, THE FATHER OF MANKIND: As another week beckons, with its pressing problems calling for our best endeavor, we are grateful for unhurried moments of communion with Thee, when spirit with spirit may meet.

It is in such spiritual commerce that the swift pace of our lives is slackened, and that in the fevers of haste we glimpse the peace of green pastures and the cool caress of still waters.

Thus, if we so will by waiting upon Thee, we shall renew our strength and shall see more clearly, think more truly, and in all our decisions choose more worthily. Above all our desires which may be tinged by hidden self-interest, we would seek Thy will, and would toil so that it may come to its coronation in the affairs of men across all dividing gulfs.

May the petitions which our hearts lift, and which our lips so feebly frame, be fulfilled in the deeds of this lawmaking instrument of the people's rule.

We bring our prayer in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1964

OUR FATHER, GOD, to Thee, our strong tower and refuge, we come as to the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Lift us, we pray, from the dust and mire of the past, with all its failures, and from any false pride in its achievements, that those who here speak for the Nation may be girded for a new day's work, as upon their strength and ability are laid the burdened needs of the Republic and of the world.

Deliver us from the web of outgrown precedents and from the sophistry of mere party shibboleths.

In the vineyard of our inner lives, which each one must tend for himself, may there be found the fruits of the spirit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance, and faith.

We ask it in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1964

MERCIFUL FATHER: In a world that so largely lieth in darkness, with the human family swept by fitful winds of doubt and despair, we pause at this sheltered sanctuary of Thy grace to make sure that no encircling gloom without dims the inner light on the altar of our heart.

As servants of the state, set aside to prescribe for the ills of an ailing social order, we pray that Thou wilt first cleanse our own lives from moral pollution and from any compromise of evil. Make our spirits great enough for these days on ages telling. Matching the large design of these challenging times, may we keep step with the drumbeat of Thy truth which is marching on, grateful that—

> Thy love hath led us in the past;
> In this free land by Thee our lot is cast.
> Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay;
> Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1964

Our Father, God, who looketh not upon outward things, but upon the kingdom of the inner life, where are the supreme issues of destiny: In this age of automatic devices, of clever gadgets, of ingenious machines, save us, we pray, from regarding the boastful display of these symbols of physical might as expressing the chief achievements of a nation—ours or any other. Let us, rather, set up to a watching world an exhibition of honor untarnished, of vows sacredly kept, of human dignity everywhere defended, of freedom unfettered, and of spiritual verities lifted above self-centered materialism devoted to surpassing others in a race for domination.

May this land of our hope and prayer reveal to an agitated world the splendor of a peace which comes of purity and of a strength to simple justice due.

We ask it in the name of the One whose life is the light of men. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1964

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND MERCY: From the strife and confusion of the speech of men, we seek to enter the sanctuary of prayer, where there is an altar set up by those who launched our Republic.

We pray for height in our lives. We need altitude. Above the divisive goals of these baffling days, lift us to some high outlook where we may catch inspiring vistas.

We pray for breadth in our lives. Save us from being shut in by the narrowness of our interests, and even by the vindictiveness of our irritations. Lift us high, that we may see broadly, with more understanding care, the whole vast circle of human yearning to escape from misery.

We pray for length of outlook and of vision. The immediacies of the present days, with their stark poignancy, stare at us; but, O God, in whose sight a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past, give us a long look, because we lift our gaze from the dusty valley of daily toil to the hills of help which stab the far horizon.

And so, with powers that are lifted and broadened and lengthened, may our individual lives be more fit to be the channels of Thy redeeming purposes for all mankind. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1964

O LORD, OUR GOD, whose love will not let us go, but followest us all the way: We bow before Thee in gratitude at the remembrance of all Thy mercy and all Thy mercies.

We would bring our restless lives into the quiet sanctuary of Thy presence, that we may be still and know that Thou art God.

In spite of all the evil that stalks the earth with threats and shackles and chains, we thank Thee for human kindness, for hope that shines undimmed, for faith that is dauntless, and for all the qualities of high personality that cannot be bribed.

Let Thy beauty, O Lord, be upon us, that our spirits may be radiant as in Thy strength we face the perplexities of these troubled days. Use us, we pray, in all our human relationships as ambassadors of good will, so that at the end of the day we may be able to say, "I have kept the faith."

In the Redeemer's name we ask it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1964

O Thou Father of our spirits, who heareth prayer, breathe upon us now, we beseech Thee, the benediction of Thy holy calm. Soothe the anxieties of our so often baffled minds, so that with the shield of Thy peace and the sword of Thy truth, we may face, free and fearless, whatever tests this day may hold.

Kindle on the altar of our hearts, we pray, a flame of devotion to freedom's cause in all the world, that in its white heat every grosser passion may be consumed. Heal the divisions which shorten the arm of our national might as we stand at this crossroad of history. Override the errors of our faulty judgments. So shall Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done in our lives and in all the earth.

In the dear Redeemer's name, we ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1964

Our Father, God, who putteth down the mighty from their seats, and exalteth the humble and the meek: As this hallowed Chamber, set upon a hill, and in the anxious gaze

of all the earth, will so shortly be left empty and silent, may those who have here spoken and acted according to their consciences and their convictions for the welfare of the Nation and of the world, turn their faces homeward with a sense of dedicated stewardship, faithfully rendered, which deserves the appreciation of the Republic.

As for a while voices within these walls are silenced, we are solemnly conscious that across the weeks ahead the reverent gaze of the Nation will be, not on its stately legislative halls, but upon the unadorned, yet sacred, voting booths set up from sea to sea, in which, free from spying eyes, every citizen dowered with the precious right of the franchise can be alone with his own conscience, none daring to molest or make afraid.

Whatever the verdict of the people may be, we thank Thee that as Americans we can say with utter confidence, "God reigns, and the Government at Washington still stands"—and stands even amid the encircling gloom, as a beacon light of truth and liberty for all the earth.

We lift our prayer in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

